



Newsletter

"Listen to the Lake"

September 2022

Dear Members,



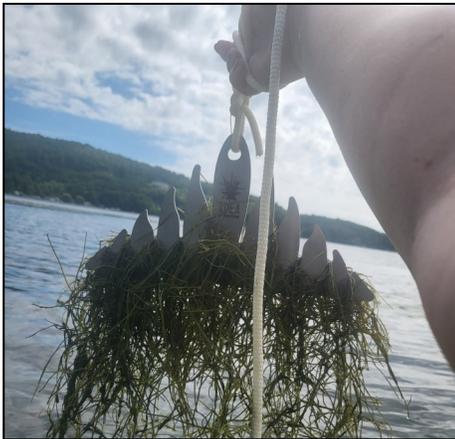
You may recognize me from my articles on Water Quality over the past 6 years. It is my extreme honor to now be writing to you as President. My family and I have just returned from a fishing trip in the North Cascades of Washington State. It was awesomely beautiful and quite an adventure, but over the 27 years since we have owned a lake house, I can say no place we have travelled can quite compare to Keuka Lake. I'm sure you have had similar experiences. Keuka is our heart home; we all love the lake. The KLA is dedicated to the very principals of home and love, protection and preservation for future generations.

The 2022 summer season was quite busy with new initiatives to grow and educate our membership, analyze our 30 years of data, develop a new stream quality evaluation, complete the 9E Plan, and control Starry Stonewort in the Branchport marinas. Of course, we have continued our volunteer citizen scientist based, water quality testing programs in the lake and streams and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) shoreline monitoring programs. We have also continued to work with state and local law enforcement to control boat speed and distance from shore and environmental threats to the lake.

As an old adage goes, "make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold". The KLA Board now has an unprecedented 6 new Directors, check them out on our website! These men and women range in talent and experiences from engineers, to surgeons, to entrepreneurs, teachers and community leaders. Their combined contributions to committees such as Water Quality, Lake Level, Membership and more, will enhance and expand our many efforts. In addition, we have formed a new committee. The Education and Research Committee will be dedicated to public education, researching best management practices for issues throughout the watershed and seeking grant opportunities.

On the following pages you will find articles describing our work and aspirations for the future. As members, I hope you will be inspired to share this news letter with your friends, family and neighbors to increase awareness of who we are and what we do in your community. Please encourage others to join our cause and become members of the KLA, protecting and preserving our heart home, Keuka Lake.

Thanks so much for your continued dedication and support, Maria Hudson, President



Collecting SSW, above & a tiny SSW blossom, at right

**STARRY STONEWORT
HARVESTING—
SUMMER 2023**
See article on pg. 2 and SSW map
on back page.



**Motor boat in North
End Marina danger-
ously poised over a
patch of Starry
Stonewort that was
removed by DASH.**

STARRY STONEWORT CONTROL IN BRANCHPORT

Starry stonewort (SSW) is a highly invasive macroalgae that forms dense mats crowding out other aquatic plants and destroying the natural habitat for water loving organisms. This dangerous invasive is very brittle and spreads easily by fragmentation. Unfortunately, like many invasives, it cannot be eradicated and so must be controlled from spreading. In 2020, SSW was found to have spread from Sugar Creek, the inlet in Branchport, into the lake itself outside it's mouth. Research has shown that the best management practice to control SSW is harvest, followed by an algaecide treatment. The best method of harvest is by Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). In mid-August 2021, the KLA obtained a NYS DEC permit for DASH and brought in an experienced team to harvest in the marinas in Branchport. The marinas and nearby residents were targeted due the risk of spread by power engines into other areas of the lake.

The KLA continued Starry Stonewort (SSW) control by DASH in the northwest branch for a 2nd year in 2022. An initial survey was performed July 7th by kayak to determine the extent of the infestation. SSW was found present from the mouth of Sugar Creek thru the wetlands and marinas to just south of the marinas. Thankfully, no SSW was found upstream in Sugar Creek or in the shallow areas outside its mouth. DASH was again hired July 11-16th to harvest in the high-risk areas just south of the North End Marina thru the marina to just north of the marina.

In year two of DASH, approximately 1/3 of the amount of SSW was harvested in twice the area of year one. Harvesting slower and less efficient because the density of SSW was much reduced and it was mixed with other aquatic plants in previously harvested areas. We are hopeful this meant that the '21 DASH effort reduced the density of spread and density of returning SSW. Combined with harvesting a month earlier in the growing season, we are hopeful the '22 DASH will further control the infestation in these risky areas.

A post-harvest SSW survey was performed Aug. 8th. SSW regrowth was found (as expected) in most (but not all) of the harvesting areas. In the un-harvested areas SSW had grown in height and density but in the harvested areas SSW density was much reduced.

The permitting process for algaecide treatment is lengthy and complicated. Similar to 2021, despite our best efforts, the KLA was not be able to obtain the wetland permit in time to apply algaecide. This year, the NYS Fish and Wild Life Dept. was involved in the permitting process along with the DEC due to the realization that Spiny Soft-Shell turtles make their home in the wetlands and in Sugar Creek. This habitat is considered rare, while SSW threatens the habitat and turtles and should be controlled, it must be harvested before application of herbicide. Harvest prior to treatment would reduce decaying mats of algae from further suffocating the substrate. Having learned from our efforts over the past 2 years, we are confident we will be able to obtain the permit for a follow-up algaecide treatment (if necessary!?) in '23.

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 1 AND MAP ON BACK PAGE.

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THE INS AND OUTS OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Lexie Davis, CCE Natural Resources/Watershed Educator



What are harmful algal blooms?

Harmful algal blooms or cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), HABs, occur when colonies of algae-simple, nonflowering, aquatic plants-grow out of control and produce dangerous toxins. Not all algae growths are toxic, but under the right conditions, they can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and other wildlife. They form in conditions of slow-moving water with nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in high sunlight.

Why do HABs happen?

We know of many factors that contribute to HABs, but little is known about how all of these factors come together to create a bloom. Many research groups around the world are investigating this question. It is known that HABs do occur naturally, but human activities such as increased nutrient loadings and pollution can also play a role. For example, sources of nutrients (mainly phosphorus and nitrogen) from sources such as lawns and agriculture that are washed into waterbodies can overfeed algae that exist naturally in the environment. With the right conditions, this overfeeding of the algae can create a bloom or harmful toxins.

What are the effects of HABs?

HABs have severe impacts on human health, aquatic ecosystems, and the economy. Humans can experience rashes, stomach or liver illness, respiratory problems, and neurological effects from direct contact with a HAB. Direct contact is classified as drinking, accidentally swallowing or swimming in water affected by the HAB. Pets, specifically dogs, are also at a great risk for serious illness and even death from direct contact with a HAB. HABs can create dead zones- areas in water with little or no oxygen (hypoxia)- where aquatic life cannot survive. Therefore, aquatic life often has to leave the area or die. The tourism industry is reported to lose \$1 billion each year because of the losses in fishing and boating activities due to HABs.

How do you protect yourself and pets from HABs?

It is important to understand that it is not possible to know if a bloom of algae is harmful just by looking at it. Check for local and state swimming and fishing advisories before entering the water. You can visit this [interactive map](#) to see where blooms are located on Keuka Lake. If you do see signs of a bloom, stay out of the water and keep your pets out of the water. Do not fish, swim, boat, or play water sports in the area. Do not boil water contaminated with a HAB. Boiling water does not remove toxins and can concentrate the toxin. Do not allow your pets to get in the water, drink the water, lick or eat the algae, eat near the water, or eat dead fish or other animals on shore. Report possible harmful algal blooms to Cornell Cooperative Extension at abd97@cornell.edu or the health department!

What can you do to prevent HABs?

Discontinuing the use of fertilizers on your yard or gardens is best, but if use is still necessary, use only the recommended amounts as prescribed on the labels. This will reduce the amount of nutrients running off into nearby waterbodies. Maintaining your septic system to keep wastewater from entering nearby waterbodies is also helpful. Wastewater is full of nutrients that can aid in the formation of HABs. Join the Shoreline Monitoring Program to help collect valuable data about when and what conditions blooms are present in! Contact Lexie Davis (abd97@cornell.edu) for more information.

Aquatic Exotic Species: A Natural Resources Management Dilemma With Special Concerns for Fisheries

W. Dieter N. Busch, KLA Board Member

Exotic species issues are frequently getting the attention of the news media because many Americans are directly or indirectly impacted to the tune of billions of dollars in damages per year. Often the reports are about the discovery of a new introduction, a range expansion of a previous introduction, the economic or ecological impact of the invaders, and the frustrating efforts to try to eradicate the species. In this article, I am attempting to call attention to some unusual exotic aquatic species that relate to the fresh water and marine sport and commercial industries, and recommend the necessary actions to be taken to address this issue.

What are exotic species?

The word exotic, for many, implies “from a far off or different location,” but that is not a requirement. Exotic, in ecological terms, means “non-native” or “non-indigenous” to the natural geographic range to which it has been introduced (either accidentally or intentionally). The term non-native is confusing since it includes new non-natives and naturalized non-native species. Because of the way humans value some species over others, “desirable” exotics (naturalized or not), such as brown trout, may be given similar or more management protection comparable to native species. On the other hand, naturalized “undesirable” exotics such as the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes continue to carry the stigma of “pest” species. The “desirable” versus “undesirable” determination for an exotic species is obviously in the eyes of the beholder and is usually driven by the perceived economic value for the species. The definition of species may also need clarification. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) helped clarify the species definition. It includes unique natural strains of a species, in a specific geographic range. Therefore, introduction of a non-native *strain* of a native species would make it an “exotic.” This is an important ecological concept because it recognizes that introduced non-native strains can hybridize with the native species and alter the behavior and/or survival of the native strain.

Selected Aquatic Exotics of Special Concern:

Shellfish

The veined rapa whelk (*Rapanosa venosa*), or Asian rapa whelk recently discovered in North American waters, may pose a potential threat to commercially important East Coast bivalves and the industries that depend on this fishery. This mollusk is a species of predatory marine snail from the Sea of Japan that has found its way into portions of the Chesapeake Bay. It was introduced into the Black Sea in the 1940s, and eventually into other waters contiguous with the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The first documented collection of *R. venosa* in North America was made in 1998 near Hampton Roads, Virginia in the lower portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Additional collections have since been made, and the number of sightings continues to increase. Recently, viable *R. venosa* egg cases were found by researchers from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, verifying the successful reproduction by the rapa whelk in Chesapeake Bay waters, and demonstrating the increased likelihood of a self-sustaining population becoming established within the Bay. Most directly, this invasive could have detrimental effects upon the shellfish industry in eastern United States waters by preying upon commercially valuable bivalve species, including oysters, clams, and mussels. Currently, a bounty system is in place in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, with the intent of paying whelk collectors a small “reward” (\$2 to \$5) for the whelk and information on where the whelk was collected (location, bottom type/substrate, water depth, etc.).

In the 1980s, the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), an invasive bivalve species, was discovered in Lake St. Clair in the heart of the Great Lakes watershed. This species is a native of the Ponto-Caspian region (the Black and Caspian Seas), and was most likely transported to North America as free-swimming larvae (veligers) in the ballast tanks of transoceanic ships. The rate of expansion for the zebra mussel, as well as the eventual overall ecological and economic impacts that it would have within the Great Lakes were not apparent at the time of its initial discovery. However, this species is now found throughout all five of the Great Lakes, the Mississippi and Missouri River drainages, as well as the Ohio and Hudson River drainages (USGS 1999). In many areas, zebra mussels dominate the macrobenthic biomass. The mussel attaches to rocks, debris, other shellfish, plants, and most objects. They do exceptionally well in the interiors of water intake pipes and structures, causing severe fouling. It is estimated that municipalities and water treatment and generating facilities have to spend millions of dollars per year to deal with zebra mussel infestation problems. In addition, zebra mussels have changed the energy flow in food webs, in the infested areas. The filtering capacity of the zebra

Cont. on pg.5

mussel is high, with a single mussel capable of filtering approximately two liters of water per day. Reduced growth rates are anticipated in some pelagic larval fishes although research reported no changes in the young-of-the-year growth rates of ten western Lake Erie fish species. Increased water clarity (transparency) that has resulted from this algal filtration has resulted in increased light penetration to greater depths, allowing vegetation to colonize areas which were once beyond the range of light required to maintain growth.

Crustaceans

Since the 1990s, the green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) has been blamed for the collapse of the softshell clam industry in Maine. In 1989, this crab was also found in San Francisco Bay. Green crab damage result from their heavy predation upon bivalves as well as upon other crab species. They also compete directly with native fish and bird species for a variety of other prey organisms.

From its first sighting near Cape May, New Jersey in 1988, the shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*) has also expanded along the East Coast from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to the Chesapeake Bay. This crab, from the Northern Pacific Ocean, was probably released with ballast water. It is speculated that this small crab (adults @ 35mm) will compete with native crabs for habitat and food.

Finfish

Introductions of numerous non-native fish species also plague the coastal states of the United States. One example of such an introduction is the Asian swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*) from Eastern Asia. The first field collections of adult Asian swamp eels in continental North America were made from spring-fed ponds at the Chattahoochee Nature Center near Atlanta, Georgia in 1996. Soon after in 1997, swamp eels were found in southern Florida, inhabiting canals, ditches, and ponds in the vicinity of Miami and Tampa Bay. This invader is now considered established within the State of Florida. Currently, according to scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey, the range of the swamp eel is expanding, and it is capable of entering and colonizing the Florida Everglades. This fish species can thrive in a variety of habitats, (even ditches and road culverts) and can survive in very shallow water (several inches). A key feature is its ability to breathe air. The Asian swamp eel can reach lengths of three feet or more, and are piscivorous (fish-eating). The swamp eel is an aquarium species in North America and may have been introduced into Florida as a result of an aquarium release.

One of the most destructive of the early documented exotic invaders was the sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*). This species, native to the marine and coastal environment, found its way into the Great Lakes and other interior lakes and destroyed the multimillion-dollar fisheries for cold-water species. Most notably, the sea lamprey caused great mortality to native Great Lakes salmonids, including the lake trout and Atlantic salmon, as well as introduced salmonids, such as the rainbow trout, coho salmon, and the king (or "chinook") salmon. Control of sea lamprey abundance requires expenditures of millions of dollars annually.

Plants

The non-native plant species, giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) has been discovered in waterways of coastal Texas and Louisiana, posing a new threat to aquatic ecosystems within the southern United States. This plant is considered a free-floating aquatic fern, and reproduces vegetatively. As the plant grows and matures, portions of the stems fragment and new plants develop from buds. Giant salvinia is capable of withstanding periods of dewatering and thermal stress (low temperature) with the formation of dormant buds. This plant is currently listed as a "Federal Noxious Weed," making its importation, sale and distribution an illegal activity.

The common coastal green alga, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, found in abundance along our southern coast, has gone through a transformation in the Mediterranean Sea and became a "terrorist super plant." It is feared that the introduction of this strain of *C. taxifolia* into the United States could lead to the colonization of large expanses of American coastal waters. It out competes native flora for habitat, and is capable of synthesizing and releasing a chemical that is toxic to potential predators, as well as other algae, and has been labeled the "killer algae". Reductions in the numbers of native invertebrates, fish, bacteria, algae, and parasites have all been documented in areas that *C. taxifolia* (Med. Clone) has colonized. This plant was listed as a "Federal Noxious Weed" in March 1999 (NIS Act 1996).

Resource Management Implications

The ultimate success of fisheries management may be significantly impacted by the management success of those dealing with exotic species prevention and habitat protection and restoration. The overall negative impact of exotics is estimated to be a close second to habitat losses in the recovery and maintenance of the health and natural biodiversity of ecosystems (NRC 1995).

The ecological concerns raised by non-native species should also apply to non-native strains. Problems related to the release of non-native strains have not received much publicity. However, non-native strains can cause ecological problems and need to be included in the conceptual approach used for the prevention of introductions of exotic species. Specific examples of potential problems that could be caused by the use of non-native strains can be found from Maine to Florida (i.e., Atlantic salmon, shellfish, and sturgeon culture). Activities such as aquaculture, stock enhancement, or species restoration, frequently rely on the use of non-native strains or strains of unknown origin in areas that also support native strains of the species. Therefore, escapes or releases can breed with the wild strains and impact the wild strain's natural survival. Further complicating the holistic approach to management, already made difficult by the institutional structures of the agencies, is the assumption that programs addressing habitat and exotic species issues frequently deal with somewhat surreal, grand-scale concepts such as *ecosystem health*, *natural biodiversity*, *system productivity and/or watershed management*. However, each management activity needs to focus on the tools and concepts available to its management. Therefore, although holistic resource management is a good goal, progress can be made by instituting a by step-by-step approach to limiting stresses from introduced exotic species on the historic fishery resources. This approach should include (in alphabetical order):

- Aquaculture licensing, including strict requirements and performance bonds to prevent release or escapes of strains or species not native to the location.
- Identification of potential harmful species to provide focused transfer prevention.
- Imports of live products to be licensed with requirement that they will not be released unless appropriately authorized.
- Intentional introductions required to obtain approval and documentation on their risk and trade-offs.
- Mandatory ballast water treatment when crossing eco-regions.
- Public education not to release aquatic "pets" into the wild.
- Restoring the natural biodiversity and abundance of native species to limit opportunities for exotics.
- Educating the public NOT to release aquatic "pets" but take them back to the store for disposal.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—JOHN HAGREEN, CHAIR

A fabulous summer is starting to wind down and what a great time it has been. Spending time with family and friends on Keuka Lake and the surrounding area has been just great. It is clear to me that the Finger Lakes region is now "really" on the map. Having attended a concert at the beautiful "Point of the Bluff" venue overlooking Keuka followed the next day by the large crowds attending the NASCAR event in Watkins Glen, our region is now a destination!!!. As you travel the roads and go from lake to lake, you really begin to understand the value these Eleven Lakes provide, to anchor this region for all forms of tourism. It has been a great year at the KLA as we have supplied lots of information to our loyal membership base along with a continued effort to protect our beautiful lake. We could use some help though. Please tell a friend or neighbor about the benefits you enjoy from our organization. Maybe it's the lake temperature, or lake level, or the regular updates on lake protection. We continue to seek ways to expand our membership to both lake residents and the surrounding watershed. All help would be greatly appreciated. Enjoy the Fall colors

WELCOME NEW/RETURNING KLA MEMBERS

WILLIAM & NORMA ABEL-1040 ELR, LOT 62, DUNDEE
LISA & BILL ACKERMAN-9938 ELR, H'SPORT
AMORUSO & ELLEN LOEBELN-1 LAKE ST, UNIT 103,
H'SPORT
ERIC & KAREN BRADSHAW-OFF-LAKE
NICHOLAS & MARY BETH CHARLAP-2426 WILLOW
GROVE, PY
BRAD & CHERYL DEATON-8611 EBD, PY
STEPHEN & CELESTE DELAHUNTY-684 ELR, PY
JIM & DONNA DELLAMORE-OFF-LAKE
DEAN & THERESA GODSHALL—3783 CENTRAL AVE,
KPARK

SAMUEL & LISE-ANNE HAGREEN-OFF-LAKE
KALA HALBERT—OFF-LAKE
JAMES & ARDIS HARTNEY-782 ELR, PY
JOHN & KAREN KLEMMER-16726 WLR, PULTENEY
BRETT & TAMMY MORGAN-10058 ELR, H'SPORT
JEFF & DEB RICE-OFF-LAKE
STEPHANIE SANFORD & JEFF COLBY-2413 BLUE
SPRUCE LN-PY
THE ADIRONDACK GUYS—MARK SQUIRES--OFF-LAKE
CLAUDIA & PORTER WELBOURNE-10989 EBD, PY
RAJ & ADRIENNE SHAH-OFF-LAKE

KLA-LCC GOLF TOURNAMENT—JULY 11, 2022

THE WEATHER WAS GREAT AND THE COMPANY WAS EVEN BETTER!!! LOTS OF FUN, GOOD FOOD AND FUN GOLF!! A HUGE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO PARTICIPATED!! BELOW IS A LIST OF THE PLAYERS AND THEIR SCORES. CONGRATS TO THE WINNERS!

<u>Men's Flight</u>	<u>Score</u>
1 Tanneberger, F + Tannedberger, B + Meriwether, B + Yochem	57
2 Cunningham, B + Jensen, S + Griffin, S + Thayer, B	59
T3 Nielsen, M + Shepardson, S + Wolf, M + Baker, R	62
T3 Crozier, S + Abate, T + Abate, C + Cott, T	62
5 Cresenzi, T + Fitch, D + Dan, T + Mike, L	63
T6 Long, C + Ballard, R + Gernold, A + Marchionda, A	64
T6 Gow, M + O'Brien, M + Buschner, K + Feinstein, B	64
T8 Hurley, M + Hurley, B + Whyte, M + Woodard, B	65
T8 Dell, R + Sweet, M + Shupp, K + Peterson, S	65
T8 Curbeau, D + Worth, T + Lang, G + Guest, 10	65
11 Schirmer, B + Wilcox, D + Guest, 1 + Guest, 2	66
12 Hufnagel, M + Guest, 7 + Guest, 8 + Guest, 9	68
13 Prozeller, J + Harding, E + Plunkett, R + Amyot, N	69
T14 Erway, S + Lowery, C + Lowery, Co + Giancarelli, J	73
T14 Castallana, M + Castallana, T + Grimaldi, L + Guest, 6	73

<u>Mixed & Women's Flight</u>	
1 Kirk, A + Kirk, B + Minor, B + Frysinger, C	57
T2 Brooks, C + Saxton, J + Brooks, J + Holly, C	65
T2 Gueli, K + Kwiatowski, P + Lennon, N + McLaugh, C	65
4 Yunis, P + Kinsman, K + Glovins, L + Glovins, K	67
T5 Yunis, B + DeLuca, K + Reynolds, G + Peterson, T	69
T5 Murphy, D + Rubin, H + Worth, M + Rapalee, D	69
7 Stork, S + Stork, Sue + Havens, P + Poole, S	70
8 Flynn, W + Hicks, S + Hagreen, J + Bourne, C	71
9 McTaggart, F + Mctaggart, M + Hood, B + Hood, J	75
10 Jensen, T + Gibbon, J + Christiansen, D + Christiansen, M	76
11 Hallings, R + Hodge, L + Bezek, K + Roberts, M	80

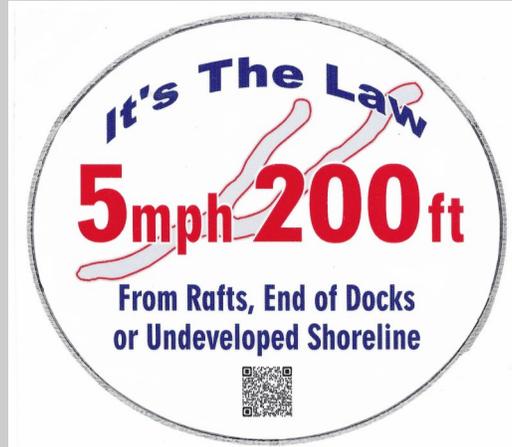
**AND A SPECIAL THANKS
TO THESE SPONSORS
AND DONORS:**

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Camp Arey	Keuka Insurance
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Curbeau, Dick	Mahlon Esh
Daily Electric	McCracken Construction
Dr. Frank Winery	Pekarek Law Group, PC, Edward Pekarek
Finger Lakes Power Systems	Penn Yan Plumbing & Heating
Finger Lakes Realty	PY Plumbing
Fishy Business	R. Stephen Ross & Associates
FLX Luxury Homes - Todd Tickner	Roch Area Comm. Fund
FLX Radon - Revnor	Staving Artist Woodwork
Gannon Assoc - Murray Agency	Stork Insurance
GCP Liquor	Switzerland Inn
Hufnagel, Matt	The Nest Egg
	Wine Trail Prop - Austin Lapp

NAVIGATION & RECREATION—STEVE HICKS

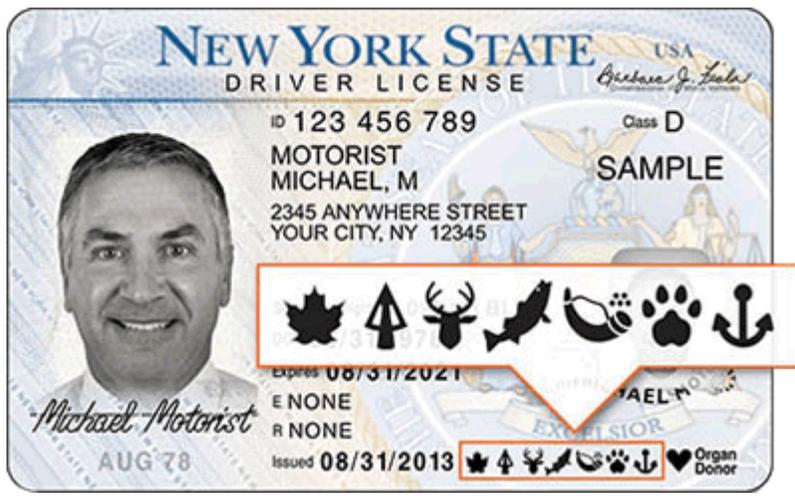


The Committee had a new design created by KG Graphics for its 5-200 program that it felt would be more universally understood. Decals and lawn signs are available in the KLA Office. If you want a lawn sign, it is suggested you call the office (315-694-7324) to arrange a pick up date/time. Decals can be mailed. See order form in this newsletter.



New York State Adventure License—Boating Safety Certificate

If you have a lifetime recreation certificate or sporting license, your New York State Driver License can become an all-purpose boating, fishing, hunting and parks ID card. Anyone successfully completing the New York Safe Boating Course or approved online boating safety course may opt to have their driver's license, non-driver ID, or learner's permit indicate completion of the course. A small anchor icon will be placed on your DMV document, attesting that you have earned a New York State boating safety certificate. The advantage to this program is that you will no longer need to carry your boating safety certificate with you when boating, provided you have your DMV credential with you. DMV will maintain a record of your having completed the boating safety course, and automatically place the icon on your license each time it is renewed.



Adding the Boating Safety Certificate icon to your Driver License, Learner Permit or Non-Driver Photo ID is not required, but is convenient as it will eliminate the need to carry multiple documents while boating. FOR MORE INFORMATION - <https://www.ny.gov/services/get-new-york-state-adventure-license> AND <https://shop.parks.ny.gov/BoaterSafety/>

The Hawks of New York - Critter Corner—David deCalesta

As my grandfather was driving me, an impressionable 10-year old, to his 800 acre farm in the Bristol Hills above Naples I saw a flash out the window and watched a red-tailed hawk nail a small woodchuck. Thus began my life-long infatuation with birds of prey. In previous KLA Critter Corner articles I have written about eagles and ospreys (*The Fish Hawks*) and the owls. This article is about the third group of birds of prey found around Keuka Lake - the hawks. These avian predators are arrayed in three groups (the *buteos*, the *accipiters*, and the *falcons*) with two oddballs thrown in for good measure. Like the three bears, species within each group come in three different sizes. And in each group, as with the eagles and ospreys, the females are about 1/3 larger than the males. All generally have 2-3 offspring, hatched days apart - in good times with plenty of food all the young survive; in times of food scarcity, the first-borns, being bigger, get the lion's share of food in a survival of the biggest scenario.

The ***buteos***, or buzzard hawks, are the largest of the hawk groups. All have long, broad wings, and hunt by soaring, or by ambush from perches. Their nests are large collections of interwoven branches in the crotches of larger hardwood trees. The largest, the red-tailed hawk is about 2 feet long with a four-foot wingspan (for the larger female). Named for the solid red color on the upper surface of their tail feathers, these brownish hawks prey on rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, mice, and, rarely, larger birds such as turkeys or pheasants. Their call, uttered when soaring, is a repeated ***kee-eeee-er*** lasting 2-3 seconds. Their smaller cousin, the red-shouldered hawk is about a third smaller with a characteristic rusty patch on their shoulders and a tail with narrow black bands. Like red-tails, they hunt while soaring or from perches on the edge of fields. Their call is an expanded version of the red-tails', a repeated and drawn out loud "***kee-aah***," with second note descending in pitch. They feed on smaller mammals, snakes, and insects. The smallest *buteo*, the broad-winged hawk, is about a third smaller than the red-shouldered hawk and a hunter primarily of closed canopy forests and so rarely seen. Their call is a thin whistle, so these hawks are not often seen or heard. They feed on small rodents, snakes, frogs, and insects. Broad-winged hawks stage large group migrations consisting of hundreds of birds - a famous spot to watch for migrating broadwings is Hawk Mountain in central eastern Pennsylvania near Reading and Allentown.

Hawks in the next group, the ***accipiters***, have shorter rounded wings and long tails with black bands. Usually their backs are darker colors and they have barred breast feathers. In open flight they alternate between rapid wing flaps and brief soaring. These hawks prey primarily on birds of forest interiors and edges (and sometimes in open fields) by direct attack and superior cornering abilities. They often build nests in large conifer or hardwood trees and are mostly silent except when defending their nest sites. The largest, the goshawk, is a little smaller than the red-tailed hawk and is mostly confined to northern forests, such as the Adirondacks (and thus rarely if ever seen above Keuka Lake). They prey on larger birds such as grouse and may take medium-sized forest mammals as squirrels. While bow hunting for elk in Colorado, I watched a goshawk take down a blue grouse. It flew off as I approached, so I and my fellow bowhunters had blue grouse for dinner. They, like other *accipiters*, are generally silent except when defending their nest, when they will utter repeated, shrill cries (*keh-keh-keh* for Cooper's and goshawks, *kik-kik-kik* for sharp-shinned). The smaller Cooper's hawk (about a third smaller than the goshawk) is known as the big blue darter because of its ability to streak out of nowhere and spring upon unsuspecting medium-sized birds (and squirrels). It will fly over the roof of a house and swoop down on birds in a birdfeeder to grab a meal. The bane of farmers, Cooper's hawks often carry out successful raids on chicken coops. The smallest *accipiter*, about 2 thirds the size of Cooper's hawks, is the sharp-shinned hawk, also known as the little blue darter because of its habit, like that of the Cooper's, of bursting upon unsuspecting smaller birds and outmaneuvering them after short, frantic flights. I once watched a sharp-shinned hawk instantly bank a 95 degree turn at full speed to catch a frantic junco.

The last of our group of three hawks is the ***falcons***. Like the *buteos* and *accipiters*, there is a declining gradient of about a third between the larger peregrine, the medium-sized merlin, and the diminutive sparrow hawk. Falcons have no defining calls, being rather silent. All have long slender wings and powerful talons and a "mustachio" dark band of feathers about the beak. The primary prey of the two larger falcons is birds pursued at rapid speed, or pounced upon by dive bombing and being knocked out of the air by a heavy blow from a clubbed talon.

Cont. on pg.11

The peregrine (named for its tendency to wander, the word peregrine means travel over long distances) is the largest at about 18 inches tall; its long pointed wings span about 3 feet. Also named duck hawk for its habit of knocking flying ducks out of the air with a powerful blow of its talons after dive-bombing them at speeds reaching 240 mph, making it the fastest animal on earth. This hawk seemed headed to extinction, a result of accumulating DDT from other prey species that absorbed it from inspect prey but its numbers have rebounded with the DDT ban. Ordinarily peregrines nest on rocky ledges, but have taken to nesting on window ledges and steel bridge structures in large cities, including New York City, and Philadelphia, where their primary prey is pigeons.

The smaller merlin (also named pigeon hawk), is about half the size of peregrines at about 10 inches long with a wingspan of about 25 inches. It hunts in open forestlands prairies, suburbs and cities in northern climes, and is rarely seen as far south as the Finger Lakes. It outmaneuvers medium-sized birds like starlings, sparrows and even small ducks, with "swift and precise attacks in flight." Merlins don't dive or "stoop" on their prey, instead plowing into flocks of frightened birds at speeds topping 30 mph, scattering them and seizing victims with their powerful talons. They may nest in abandoned crow or hawk nests high in a tree, frequently a conifer, and usually in a fairly open situation, but sometimes nest on cliffs like their larger relative.

The last falcon, the diminutive sparrow hawk or kestrel as its European counterpart is called, is almost as large as the merlin but is much slighter in build. A common hawk of farm fields and meadows, sparrow hawks are excellent bird hunters, catching smaller birds like finches and sparrows; sometimes from a perch, while other times they may fly low, then swooping up to grab unsuspecting birds. They may hover with rapid wing-beats directly over a mouse or larger insect, uttering their typical **tilley-tilley** call, then pouncing in a quick dive. Unlike other hawks, sparrow hawk male and females are distinctly different in coloration, the smaller males having blue-gray backs and wings with orange chest bars; females and young birds have brown backs and wings and the brown chest barring. Sparrow hawks usually nest in open lands in cavities in trees previously excavated by flickers and woodpeckers.

Keuka falcons have two much larger, northern cousins, the gyrfalcons of northern Canada and the arctic. Standing 24 inches tall with a wingspan of 50 inches these heavier falcons hunt prey in a horizontal pursuit rather than dive-bombing like the peregrine. They kill their pursued prey, including ptarmigans, geese, gulls, marmots, lemmings and hares after forcing them to the ground. They come in black and gray varieties and occasionally, like snowy owls, are seen in northern US states as winter visitors.

Two oddballs complete the list of hawks or hawk like birds of Keuka Lake. The marsh hawk (also called northern harrier) is a slender bird about the size of a red-shouldered hawk. They frequent meadowlands and open marshlands, gliding low or hovering in typical harrier fashion as they search for their prey of small mammals, amphibians, snakes and the occasional small shorebird or duck. They occasionally take larger prey such as rabbits by catching them and drowning them in water. Like the sparrow hawks, marsh hawk males and females are differently colored - the smaller male with gray backs, and black wing-tips; females and immatures are brown with the same tail bands. Their nests consist of interwoven sticks and reeds on the ground in wet marshlands.

The last in our collection of hawk-like birds is the turkey vulture. In the 50s they were rarely seen as far north as the Finger Lakes, now they are a common sight as they glide about, searching for the carrion they feed upon. A large bird at 30 inches tall with a 6-foot wingspan, they are often seen soaring and wheeling about as they search for the carrion they eat - they can detect the odor of an animal dead only a few hours at distances greater than one mile. They are all black with naked red heads (like that of a wild turkey, hence the name turkey vulture). Their heads are bare of feathers to keep them clean - they thrust their heads inside carcasses to feed on that's inside as well as on the outside. They do a remarkable clean-up job and prefer animals dead less than two days.

They are anywhere nesters, laying their eggs on ledges, in caves and hollow logs, in abandoned stick nests of birds, in mammal burrows, and in abandoned buildings. And, they have two disgusting habits. When cornered, they projectile vomit acidic, malodorous throw-up on animals threatening them (and on humans who accidentally catch them in traps - a once-in-a-lifetime horrible experience) and poop on their feet to cool themselves off.

LAKE LEVEL COMMITTEE CHAIR—WAYNE HAND



The Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC) and their Gate Mgr. have done an excellent job in maintaining the lake level within the objectives for the past 5 months, plus completion of several gate maintenance and safety projects. Mother nature has provided totally different challenges this year vs. 2021 by giving us drought conditions and not extreme rain events, but they have been able to maintain desired levels while still providing adequate outflow to meet minimum requirements for the Penn Yan waste treatment plant.

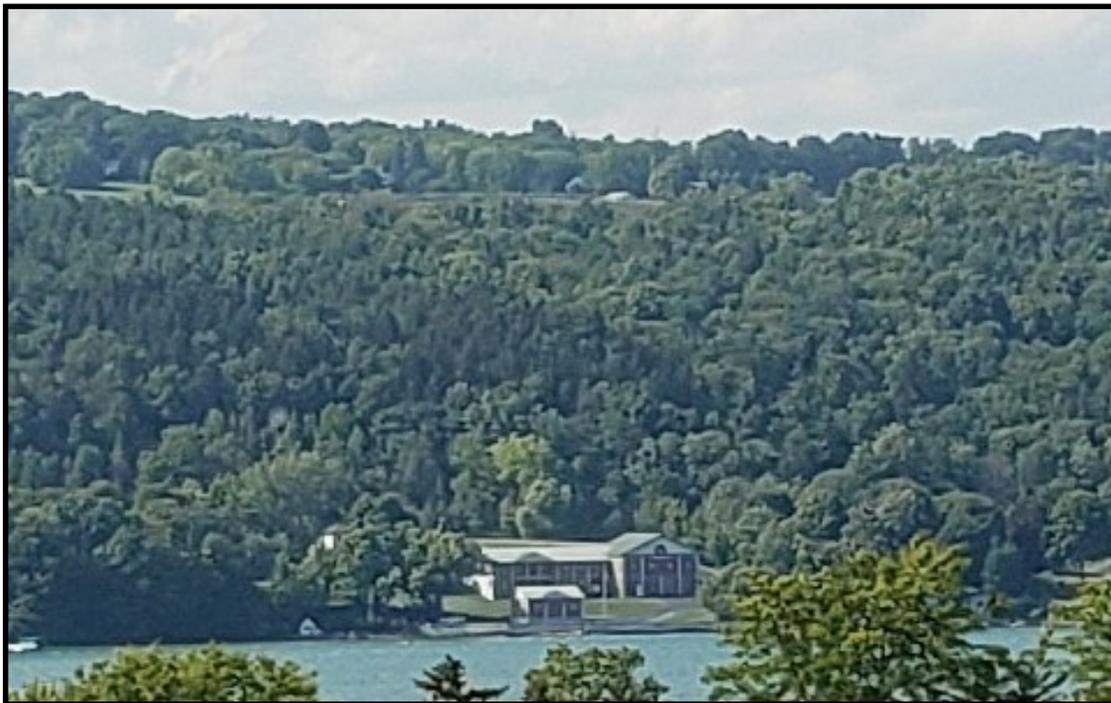
What is the history of Keuka's lake level measurement and how is it measured?

- Peak lake level information exists by year going back to 1939, as shown in the USACOE Reservoir Regulation Manual. Daily lake levels were manually logged by the NYSEG power plant operator, looking at a physical gauge in Keuka Village, from opening around 1929 until it was shut down in the late 1990's. These daily manual logs are archived by the Town of Wayne historical group, so could be retrieved and digitized, if desired.
- Especially since the late 1990's, there has been excellent cooperation between the Village of Penn Yan, KLOC, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), and the KLA.
- In the 1990's, Peter Landre from CCE (a paid consultant for the KLA), and JC Smith were the key drivers for design and installation of an automatic lake level system. This consisted of a pressure sensor located at the PY Village water plant (PYWP), which is provided pressure readings from a compressed air line bubbler located offshore in the lake, that provides continuous lake level readings to the water plant operator control panel. They then installed a system which included a data logger inside the lower PYWP building which monitored the lake level readings, which could communicate with a computer located at CCE via a dial up connection. This lake level information was then charted and displayed on the KLA website. The computer, modem, and phone lines to CCE offices were owned and paid for by the KLA. The reasons for having KLA owned equipment at CCE was that was where Peter had his office. When there were issues, Peter or someone from the CCE staff, could reboot the system. Usually, this was a weekly even primarily due the instability of the phone lines from the water plant to CCE. The KLA funded all of these efforts, which included the pressure sensor and air compressor, data logger and computer, plus a water temperature sensor. Since then, the pressure sensor and air compressor have been functioning fine with little or no need for maintenance, but the data logger and communication to and from the website needed regular support. Around 2011, Peter Landre got promoted out of the area and the KLA, via their lake level committee, took over all of the system support functions with no involvement of CCE.
- In 2012, the KLA funded the installation of a new data logger (with direct internet connections and no dial up) along with KLA website code written to automatically retrieve data from the data logger every 2 hours, update the webpage lake level and temperature charts, and calculate the water outflow thru the gates. This automated the complex USACOE calculations for flow, which have been validated by the USGS flow gauge in Dresden. The KLA has maintained the data logger and the communication system ever since. In reality, the KLA has always been responsible (financially and operationally) for the lake level system and the hardware. There were several communication issues over the years which improved significantly when PY changed from Spectrum to Empire internet service, and the Sutron data logger was repaired in 2020. For the past year or so total system performance has been good, but "glitches" still happen every once in a while, which may require some tweaking/data correction by Scott Demmin (KLA's website designer and support person).
- The accuracy of the lake level system has been validated by a surveyor periodically over the years. Most recently in March of 2022, the system values were found to be accurate to within a fraction of an inch. However, there was a period of time in the early 1990's where the published level readings were off by 2 – 3 inches. A few weeks ago, a boat anchor, or something else, dislodged the compressed air bubbler from its fixed location in the water which required some minimal adjustments until it was reattached.

Cont. on pg.17

Lake Level– cont.

- Based on the member survey done a while back, people seeking lake level status is by far the most popular reason for accessing the KLA website. We provide a valuable service to the KLA membership, KLOC and the Gate Mgr., and the entire community. Prior to the current automatic system installed in 2012, information on the lake level was reported on a weekly basis in the local newspaper, and anyone could call the water treatment plant and ask for the lake level. The PYWP (Penn Yan Water Treatment Plant) personnel manually reported the data daily. The KLA also funded and installed several static lake level sign type gauge posts around the lake, and some still exist today. One of them is located at the PYWP.
- There is also a USGS gauge located in Hammondsport which automatically records lake level and posts on the internet. This was originally installed on the old Keuka Maid dock, but was relocated a few years ago to a better permanent base in the mouth of Cold Brook. Today, the readings at both locations are very close which provides an easy means to continuously validate KLA posted level readings.



Water Treatment Plant, 1515 West Lake Rd., Penn Yan,

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The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation holds 'Free Fishing Days/Weekends' when anyone can fish the fresh waters of New York State and no fishing license is required! All other freshwater fishing regulations still apply. Upcoming Free Fishing Dates in 2022 are September 24, 2022 November 11, 2022

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www.americasboatingclub.org (Americas Boating Club – ex USPS) www.cgaux.org (Coast Guard)

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Steuben: <https://www.steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=194> - 607-622-3901 or 1-800-724-7777

THE 9E PLAN—A SENECA-KEUKA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP?

Steve Butchko-KWIC, Mark Morris-KLA and Colby Petersen-KL Watershed Mgr.

**Final 9E Plan Meeting Focuses on Future Work Addressing Hydrologic Resiliency**

The Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan for Phosphorous, and addressing one of its priority action items of increasing hydrologic resiliency, was center stage at the 10th Annual Land Use Leadership Alliance held in Penn Yan on April 25th. Presented to

roughly 90 attendees in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom options available, speakers from Cornell University, Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO), Southern Tier Regional Planning and Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) talked about how the plan proposes addressing this challenge, and details on the wide variety of potential projects applicable to various land use areas that address it. What is hydrologic resiliency? In a single phrase: making the landscape more of a sponge. Hydrologic resiliency refers to the ability of landscapes around the watershed to resist negative water quality outcomes in response to precipitation events. Once deposited, rain or snow is taken up by vegetation, percolates into the soil, or moves across the surface and into adjacent waterways. This last outcome is the least desirable as it is associated with the most severe water quality impacts. To improve hydrologic resiliency, the 9E planning process has prioritized the reduction of precipitation that ultimately ends up as surface runoff. Speakers shared numerous project examples on how homeowners, municipalities, farmers and developers can achieve this goal.



For example, Colby Petersen of Yates County SWCD presented on the use of Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs). WASCOBs are stormwater retention structures that promote the capture and retention of surface runoff. In an agricultural setting, a properly sized and sited WASCOB can provide a tremendous reduction in peak surface water flows while preserving land for crop production. The benefits of such an upland retention structure have a positive impact for landowners downstream as well. Additional examples presented included development and building guidance on steep slopes to avoid runoff Ontario County SWCD erosion, multiple best management practices applicable to roadway ditches and culverts that reduce erosion and promote pollutant sequestration, and model local laws used to preserve natural systems that reduce surface runoff. The full recording of the presentation is now available on the SWIO website: <https://senecawatershedio.wordpress.com/9e/>



While this may have been the last official public outreach session associated with the Nine Element Plan project, ongoing outreach is another proposed management action and critical component of successful watershed management. With more projects ongoing or in the works, you can certainly expect future engagement opportunities to take place in the future. Until then, we thank all of you who took the time to participate in the 9E Plan development process and made it a success.

Dr. Konstantin Frank

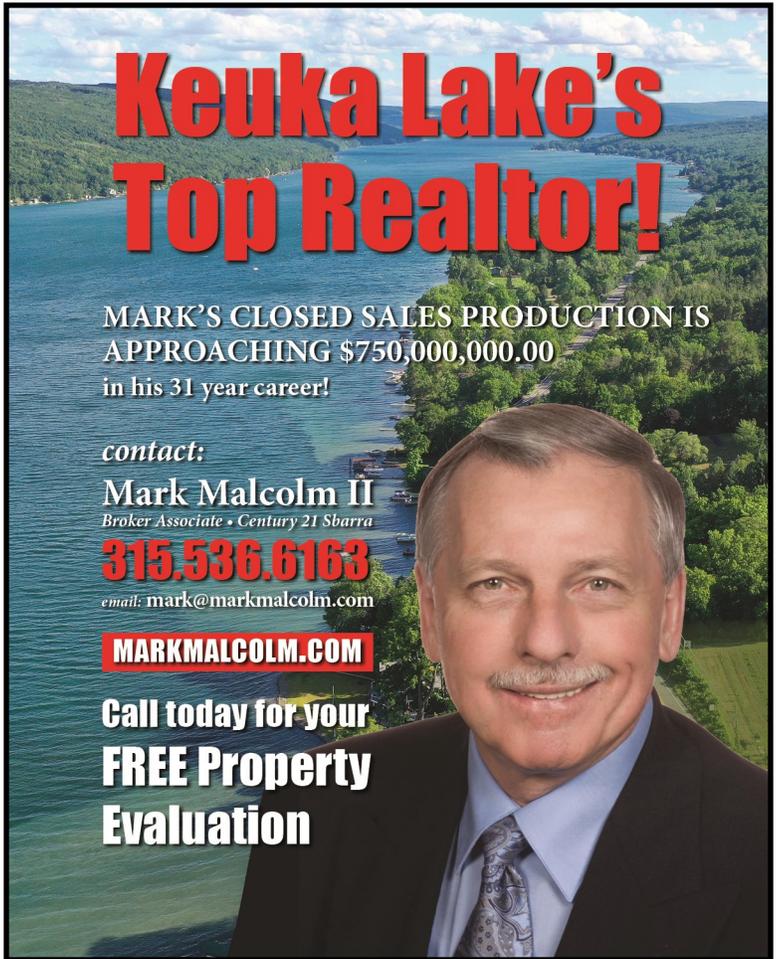
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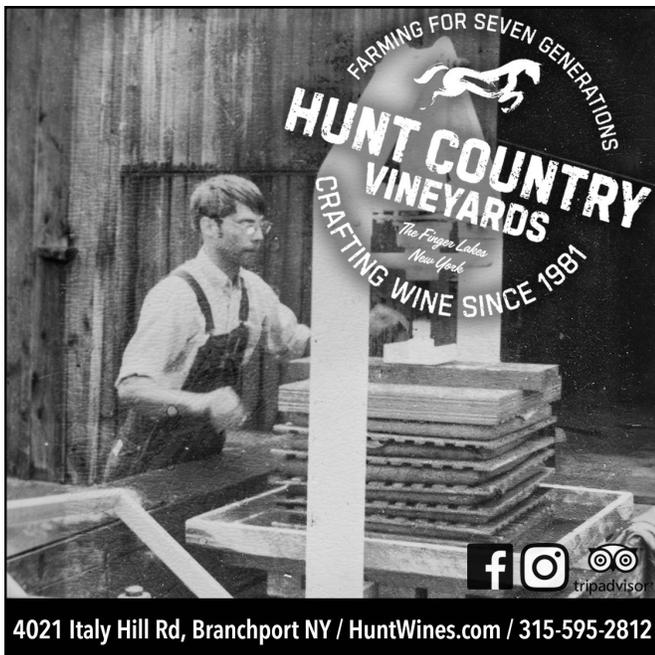
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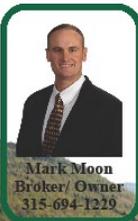
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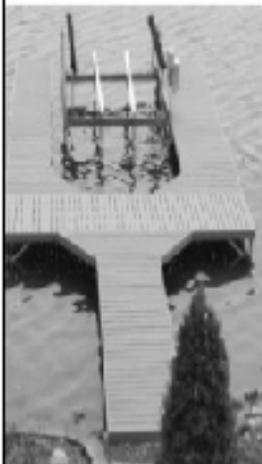


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Providers of knowledgeable, friendly, reliable service
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The KLA urges you to support our business members and newsletter advertisers. If you would like further information concerning our business members, please contact the KLA Office or visit our website at www.keukalakeassoc.org to find Business Member listings and links to their websites. *New advertisers/business members in italics *Sponsor Level **Patron Level ***Guardian Level • Business/Personal*

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Bailey Business Advisors-
Bank of the Finger Lakes
Commonwealth Financial Group
Hayes Asset Management, LLC
Lyons National Bank—Penn Yan*

ARCHITECT

Patrick Flynn

ATTORNEYS

Carl J. Schwartz, Jr. Esq.*

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Penn Yan Plumbing & Heating*
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Crooked Lake Mercantile
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Keuka Lakeside Inn
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Brie Kirk - Wine Trail Properties
Camp Arey***
Century 21 Sbarra & Wells*
Curbeau Realty-Bonnie & Dick Curbeau*
Howard Hanna Lake Group—Penn Yan & Hammondsport
Howard Hanna Realty - Ken Frank
Howard Hanna Realty -Michael Hanna
Howard Hanna Realty —Jackie Carpenter
Howard Hanna Realty- Stan Olevnik
Keuka Lake Land & Realty
Mark Malcolm II - Century 21***
Marcia Rees - Century 21
Mary St. George-Realtor

RECREATIONAL/MUSEUMS/ARTS

The Art Studio@126 Main, PY
Finger Lakes Boating Museum
Finger Lakes Museum
Fishy Business
Lakeside Country Club
On Keuka!
Shoreline Outdoor Rentals
Yates County Arts Council

RESTAURANTS/SNACKS

Burgers & Beer of Hammondsport-
Keuka Restaurant*
The Switzerland Inn*
Lakeside Country Club
Lakeside Restaurant

STORAGE FACILITIES

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Eastview Veterinary Clinic

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Water Street Wines & Spirits*

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Bully Hill Vineyards
Doyle Vineyard Management-Matt & Carre Doyle
Dr. Konstantin Frank Wine Cellars
Hunt Country Vineyards*
Keuka Lake Vineyards
Keuka Spring Vineyards-
McGregor Vineyard Winery

OTHER

Eastlake Consulting*
Finger Lakes Connections.com
Village of Penn Yan
Willow Grove Camp Inc.

*Please
consider
volunteering
for our
Shoreline
Monitoring
Program in
2022.
Call or
email the
KLA
Office*

KLA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

TOTAL AMT ENCLOSED _____



Please make checks payable to the Keuka Lake Association and send completed order to PO Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527.

Card number: _____

Expiration Date: ___/___/___ Signature: _____



Are your neighbors members of the KLA? Great Gift Idea!!

Whether they live on the lake or anywhere within the watershed or visit Keuka, they have an interest in the future health and viability of Keuka Lake. Why not ask them if they are members...and encourage them to join? Why not give a KLA membership as a gift? Applications are also available on our website.

___ Dock Plate 6"x12" (*excluding #s*) - \$30 incl. S&H
\$25 if purchased at the KLA Office

___ Dock Plate 8"x12" (*including #s*) - \$45 incl. S&H*

*Larger plate is special order only—house # plus road or cottage name: _____

Numbers for 6x12 plates—\$1.00 each
Fill in your desired numbers below

Five empty boxes for entering numbers:

KLA DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President	Maria Hudson	Barrington	Mike Gow
Vice-President	Steve Brigham		Steve Hicks
Treasurer	Diane Edwards	Jerusalem	Susan Oliver
Secretary	Ira Goldman		Tim Cutler
At-Large	Karen Griffin	Milo	Pat Foster
	Sam Castner		Bill Laffin
	Rick Willson	Pulteney	Doug DeFranco
	Nolan Smith		Cathleen Gueli
	Dieter Busch	Urbana	Sam Pennise
	Gerry Gacioch		John Hagreen
Past-President	Ray Dell	Wayne	Nancy Feinstein
Ex-Officio	Dennis Carlson		Wayne Hand
Ex-Officio	Mark Morris		

KLA DECALS—FREE

___ Two KLA decals -



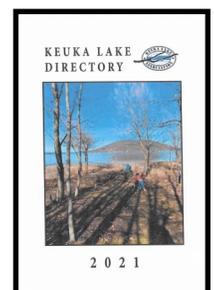
___ Two Business decals

NEW 5,200 decals available.
Also lawn signs are available in the KLA Office



___ LP HOLDERS: \$8.00 incl. S&H
Also available in the above local stores

___ 2021 Directories: \$10.00 incl. S&H



MEMBERSHIP AND KLA OFFICE INFORMATION

MEMBER APPLICATION

Membership year runs from April 1-March 31

NEW RENEWAL (See membership expiration date
On your address label.)

NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ ADDRESS2 _____

KEUKA ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

KEUKA PHONE _____

BUSINESS MEMBER WEB SITE _____

Dates I wish to receive mail at KEUKA address: From ___/___ to ___/___ month/day

I wish to receive ___ e-newsletters & e-notices

I wish to receive Quarterly Newsletter ___ by US mail ___ by e-mail ___ Both

MEMBERSHIP TIER (Check one)

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Check one)

- Business – \$60
- Basic - \$40+
- Partner – \$60+
- Sponsor – \$100+
- Patron – \$150+
- Guardian – \$250+
- Champion- \$500 +

Check # _____

Credit Card Info below

Join/Renew on line on our
website:
www.keukalakeassoc.org

Card number: _____

Expiration Date: ___/___/___ Signature: _____

Mail application and payment to: **Keuka Lake Association, P.O. Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527**
Penn Yan, NY 14527

KEUKA LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The KLA office is located at 142 Main St, in Penn Yan, the corner of Main & Maiden Lane. Mail to PO 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527. The office is usually open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, but with the current situation, it is not always consistent. You can contact the office either by phone: 315-694-7324 (answering machine attached) or email: info@keukalakeassoc.org.

Margo G. McTaggart,
KLA Administrative Assistant

ADVERTISING IN THE KLA NEWSLETTER

The advertising section of the KLA newsletter is provided as a service to KLA members only. The ads are restricted to 1/4 page, to fit into a 3 3/4 by 4 3/4 space. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to contact the KLA office with a request for ad space in an upcoming issue and send a **print ready ad**. The deadline for the September 2022 issue is August 1st and will be accepted in the order submitted. However, in an attempt to present an interesting diversity of ads, the KLA editorial staff reserves the right to limit the number of any specific type of ad in any given issue. KLA also reserves the right to decline acceptance of an ad deemed inappropriate for the publication. Ad cost for each issue is **\$50**. Thank you to all of the KLA members who have advertised with us.

KLA MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

March 1 - Dues renewal notices mailed.

December - Last newsletter for those who have not renewed. Check the expiration date on your address label.

December - Membership for **NEW** members & current members who join after Dec.1 will be extended through the next membership year: April-March

For area boater safety courses, consult the following:

www.americasboatingclub.org (Americas Boating Club – ex USPS) www.cgaux.org (Coast Guard)

Local Sheriffs' Depts.

Yates: <https://www.yatescounty.org/faq.aspx?qid=71> - 315-536-4438

Steuben: <https://www.steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=194> - 607-622-3901 or 1-800-724-7777

Keuka Lake Association, Inc.
PO Box 35
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Map indicating SSW presence 2023



1 inch = 383 feet



- SSW22
- No ssw 22

Map produced by
Yates County Soil & Water
Conservation District GIS

The KLA's mission is to preserve and protect Keuka Lake and its natural beauty for future generations.



KLA Calendar available:
Longs' in Penn Yan
Browsers and Cinnamon Stick in H'sport
Crooked Lake Mercantile in B'port
Lyon-Smith Brewing Co.—Keuka Park

**YOUR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
HAS ARRIVED!**