



Our 2021 calendar is available at local stores and wineries. It makes a great gift for those who love Keuka Lake.

Photos for submission for our 2022 calendar can be sent anytime through 2/21 to the KLA Office e-mail. Please make sure they are horizontal and of high resolution.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ Ray Dell



Fall is on the horizon and summer is fading in the earlier sunsets over our Keuka Lake.

As we look back, the world changed due to the Covid-19 outbreak but our lake and your KLA stayed on track providing leadership in the preservation and protection of the watershed and shoreline. As New York ordered a "Pause" in the spring, the KLA switched immediately to remote voice Board meetings and then to video for Board and Committee meetings. This was the first year we were unable to hold our annual in-person meeting in July. Yet with video conferencing, we had attendance numbers that matched previous year's attendance.

All of the KLA's Committees remained flexible and changed accordingly to conform to the ever-changing NY Pause regulations that were established. Operational adjustments were made to the various Water Quality programs; Water Testing, Shoreline and Stream monitoring. KLA-VP Maria Hudson along with Laura Bailey, Cornell Cooperative Extension, rewrote protocols for the collection and transporting of samples to the appropriate laboratory for analysis. Our participation with the Nine Element Watershed Management Plan (9E Plan, DEC Link: <http://157.230.227.65/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/9E-Factsheet.pdf>) continues with Mark Morris as the KLA's representative. This plan will act as a guide for water and watershed best practices management, which ensures that the water within the lake remains pristine well into the future.

Our Navigation and Recreation Committee and acting on a suggestion by Jean Thompson, a KLA member, instituted the "5.200 Program." Ira Goldman, KLA-Secretary, along with Board member Doug DeFranco designed and implemented the initial phase of the program. (See Navigation and Recreation report later in this newsletter).

The Lake Level Committee has completed a grant to the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC) for assistance with funding of the repairs and maintenance of the gates and dam. Committee Chair Wayne Hand and former KLA Board President Bill Laffin worked with KLOC to provide an agreement for safeguarding KLA funds, a better understanding of the operation of the gates and how KLOC regulates the lake level. Your KLA Board of Directors unanimously approved the transfer of KLA funds to KLOC to help support this valuable project.

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President's Message Continued:

All of these programs, which safeguard Keuka Lake, can only be accomplished through dedicated volunteers. Consider volunteering minutes of your time on one of the Water Quality monitoring programs or becoming a member of the Board of Directors to protect the lake is an unmeasurable investment in the its future.

Lastly, at our July Board of Directors meeting President Denny Carlson "passed the gavel" to me after a great progressive tenure. Under Denny's presidency, water quality jumped to the forefront of importance and expansion. Under his direction, the co-operative efforts between the KLA and Cornell Cooperative Extension flourished, providing valuable water quality programs such as inlet and shoreline monitoring. Denny will remain with the Board in an ex-officio capacity willing to share his valued experience and outlook on the preservation of our Keuka Lake.

On behalf of the members of the KLA and Board of Directors and sincere, "Thank you for all you did, Denny!"

Enjoy a safe and peaceful fall.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—JOHN HAGREEN



Our lakes are old, natural, and non-manmade. Native American legend explains the **Finger Lakes** this way: the Creator looked upon this land with special favor and reached down to bless it, leaving the imprint of His hand, hence, the Finger Lakes.

What does Keuka mean?

Nestled in the heart of Finger Lakes Wine Country lies Keuka Lake – its pristine, glacial waters glistening as it catches rays of sun. Deriving its name from the Iroquois word meaning "Canoe Landing", Keuka Lake has unique qualities that separate it from the other Finger Lakes. Keuka Lake is one of the major Finger Lakes in the state of New York. It is unusual as it has the shape of the letter "Y".

Some other interesting facts about Keuka:

Surface Area; 11,730 acres

Elevation: 715 Feet above Sea Level

Maximum depth: 186 feet

Mean depth: 101 feet

Shoreline: 60 miles

Residences: Approximately 2900

Thermocline – Between 30 & 35 feet/ A steep temperature gradient in a body of water such as a Keuka lake, marked by a layer above and below which the water is at different temperatures. - "this prevents mixing between the surface waters and those beneath the thermocline

The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation officials have reviewed the water quality of the 11 Finger Lakes, and only one has improved continually since the 1970s. That would be Keuka Lake.

These are all interesting and fun facts describing the lake we love, Keuka. What we all really love is that Keuka Lake is a wonderful place to gather with friends and family at any time of the year. This description fits well with the KLA mission statement of "protecting and preserving Keuka Lake for future generations" On behalf of the Keuka Lake Association board members, I would like to sincerely thank our loyal membership base for your continuing commitment to our preservation goals, especially during this very tough pandemic year.

Thank you very much !!!!

John Hagreen

KLA/LCC Golf Tournament Postponed until 2021

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE - MARIA HUDSON

Some Aspirational Visions from the Future



A few weeks ago, members of the 9E Plan's Public Advisory Committee (PAC) were asked to write a letter from the year 2035 to someone who had left Keuka in 2020 describing how things had changed in 15 years! The letter was to be aspirational but also realistic. The goal of this letter writing exercise was to provide ideas to "Preserve, Protect and Control" for the Visions and Goals Statement of the 9E Plan. Here is my letter to friends in Australia and below is the Statement of Visions and Goals.

July 11, 2035

Dear Michael and Gaenor,

It's been awhile! How is the beach house? Sailing? Gardening? How are the dogs? We are doing very well here, finally retired, and living full time at the lake. The boys and their families take turns spending vacations with us, they were all here as usual on the 4th; it was a wonderful few days...

Fishing and swimming off the dock with the grandkids was really nice. It's like an aquarium on calm mornings you can see six feet to the bottom and watch the sunfish and perch swimming and small mouth bass guarding their nests. The shale rocks are smooth blue black again like 40 years ago when we bought the place. The zebra mussels have disappeared (they developed a virus that killed them off-yeah!). The native weeds are beautiful and provide natural habitat for the fish. No more slimy choking algae or silty slippery bottom. Apparently, all the work put into remediation of the ditches and gullies and controls on erosion has made a huge impact. We still get those massive storms but no longer huge brown plumes of soil and debris running off into the lake.

Regulations on spreading of inorganic fertilizers, pesticides and manure are self-enforced these days due to increased communication and education amongst farmers. Also, farmers have begun using new efficient methods of determining when and how much fertilizer/pesticide is needed, along with "no till" seeding and other water saving and erosion prevention technology. Even home gardeners have learned how to get a green lawn without fertilizer runoff and a beautiful garden that protects their shoreline.

Of course, we raced the E Scow. There are many more sailors around now and we have a lot of kids and adults at sailing camp each summer. Not only do they have a great time on the water but we teach water safety, they can get their boating license and (my favorite) we spend a day on lake ecology and natural history.

Power boat traffic has changed in last 15 yrs. There are still some larger wake boats, but increasingly the younger families are downsizing, opting for new efficient smaller hulls and e-boats, still roomy and comfortable but less of a "footprint" on the environment and the water. These days it is considered very obnoxious and "uncool" to create those huge wakes that crash onto the shoreline. And, (since the lake trout population has recovered) there are a lot more fisherman out there who would be happy to report speeding boats and new apps to do so!

You guys left for Australia just before the COVID crisis hit. I think it was a real wakeup call for homeowners here, many who came from far away in mid-March to shelter and watched the spring unfold into summer. Not only did we witness first-hand the destructive runoff from spring storms but also saw the spring migration of Baltimore Orioles, heard the loons, followed the soar of a bald eagle and watched as a mother merganser led her chicks for an evening paddle. Those who had the privilege to be here during those weirdly quiet scary days developed a new and deep respect for the lake. We realized how precious and beautiful and vulnerable these waters are and vowed to do everything possible to preserve and protect them for future generations.

Best to you both.

We can't wait to see you at the lake!

Maria, William and "the boys"

Lake-friendly lawn care for the fall (or to leave until the spring!)

Laura Bailey—CCE Yates Natural Resources Educator



The household and lawn care choices you make matter to the overall water quality of the watershed and Keuka Lake. Incorporating and adopting environmentally conscious practices can help to protect the health and beauty of the lake. There are several practices that homeowners can follow, year-round, inside and outside the home, including your fall lawn care practices. And prepare yourself: I'm going to ask you to switch things up a little and to take it easy and relax a little bit more this fall!

What to do with leaves is a common questions that homeowners often have. Raking or disposing them into the lake or stream is not a recommended practice and burning them is illegal in NYS. So what else can you do with them?

Leave the Leaves – skip the raking (and blisters) and mow over them. Shredding leaves with the lawn mower and allowing them to decompose returns their nutrients to the lawn: free fertilizer! What about leaves in your flower beds? You can leave those and then rake if needed in the spring. Not only will these leaves decompose and enrich the soil, they also provide valuable winter habitat and forage for a variety of wildlife including salamanders, toads, insects, worms, and snails.

If mowing or leaving the leaves doesn't work for your lawn, here are some additional environmentally friendly alternatives from NYS DEC:

Create Valuable Compost from Your Leaves

A big pile of leaves will decompose, but very slowly. To speed things up, see our home composting guide found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8799.html>

Leaf volume and decomposition time can be greatly reduced by shredding. Rake dry leaves into low piles and mow over them several times with a mulching mower. Up to ¾" deep of shredded leaves can be applied to your lawn. You can add shredded leaves to your compost pile, and use the compost in the spring.

Use Leaves as Mulch:

In the vegetable garden:

Use leaves to cover bare soil in your vegetable garden during the winter and to protect cold-hardy vegetables like carrots, kale, leeks and beets for extended winter harvest. In the spring, you can turn the leaves into the soil.

Decaying leaves use up soil nitrogen, so add an organic source of slow-release nitrogen, like composted animal manure, before planting.

In the flower garden:

Shredded leaves make good mulch for garden beds and are less likely to blow around. The leaves will gradually turn into compost, enriching your soil.

If you prefer the look of bark mulch, cover bare soil with shredded leaves first, then a top layer of bark mulch.

Keep total mulch depth to three inches or less and don't let mulch touch tree trunks or the base of shrubs as this can encourage pests and disease.

Municipal Composting:

Your community may offer curbside collection of leaves, or allow residents to bring leaves to a central location. Leaves are then composted and the compost made available to the public. Ask your local recycling coordinator if this is an option in your community as not all landfills will accept yard waste.

Cutting back perennial plant stalks is another lawn chore that can be better to leave for the spring. Cutting down plant stems removes seeds, which many plants don't release until the fall and winter months, and also removes a winter food source for wildlife. Leaving the lower vegetation of the plant is okay too, as just like tree leaves, it will decompose and enrich the soil and provide habitat and forage for a variety of wildlife during the winter months. Some perennials even depend on their lower vegetation and stems to collect leaves and snow for insulation and moisture to help them withstand the cold. There are some species and instances where you will want to cut back perennials and dispose of the material, such as if they have pest or disease issues. For additional information on when to cut or not to cut back your perennials, visit this Penn State Extension site: <https://extension.psu.edu/cutting-down-perennials-in-the-fall>

If you need to fertilize, fall is the best time to perform this task. I know I've been telling you to wait until spring for many of the lawn chores we normally consider fall tasks, but when it comes to fertilizing, which we tend to think of as a spring chore, fall is the best time for this task. As the weather gets cooler, grass blades grow more slowly, but beneath ground the roots are growing quickly and will readily take up nutrients, establishing a strong root system for healthy growth in

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Lake-Friendly Lawn Care Cont.:

the spring. However, when it comes to fertilizing, first you should determine if your lawn needs it. Have the soil tested (can often be conducted through local agencies such as Cornell Cooperative Extension and/or Soil & Water Conservation Districts) to determine if and what nutrient deficiencies need amending.

Here's some additional information from NYS DEC on fertilizing:

Over-fertilization or applying fertilizer at the wrong time can harm your lawn; first determine IF there is a nutrient deficiency with a soil nutrient test

Broadcasting up to a half inch of finished compost provides nitrogen, other trace nutrients, and organic matter to the soil

More serious nitrogen deficiencies should be corrected with a slow-release, organic source of nitrogen such as blood meal, cottonseed meal, or fish meal

Apply nutrients when soil temperatures are above 65 degrees

Get 50% of your lawn's needed nitrogen by leaving clippings on the lawn; apply the other 50% in the fall by shredding leaves using a mulching lawn mower and leave them on the lawn

If you fertilize an existing lawn in mid-summer, you're feeding the weeds!

Note: As required by NYS law, do not apply any fertilizer:

containing nitrogen, potassium, or phosphorous between December 1 and April 1 or

within 20 feet of any surface water unless there is a vegetative buffer of at least 10 feet, and

do not broadcast fertilizer onto sidewalks and roads where it can run-off into storm drains or nearby waterways



Planting trees or shrubs can also be done in the fall, but make sure to give plants at least six weeks of mild weather for root growth before freezing temperatures arrive. Aim for new plantings to be in by the end of September and remember to choose native species. There are many lake-friendly reasons to add more trees and shrubs to your lawn. Lawns (grass) along a waterbody can cause excessive plant and algal growth, shoreline erosion and sedimentation, loss of wildlife habitat, and an increase in nuisance animals (e.g., Canada geese prefer short, tender grass and avoid tall vegetation where predators can hide.) Adding a strip of natural vegetation along the shoreline of a lake or waterbody can help to reduce these impacts by restoring ecosystem services including food and shelter for local wildlife, shade for fish and wildlife, soil stabilization and reduced erosion, filtration of pollutants and sediments, and the absorption of nutrients. Here's a list of native vegetation options from NYS DEC: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/factnatives.pdf

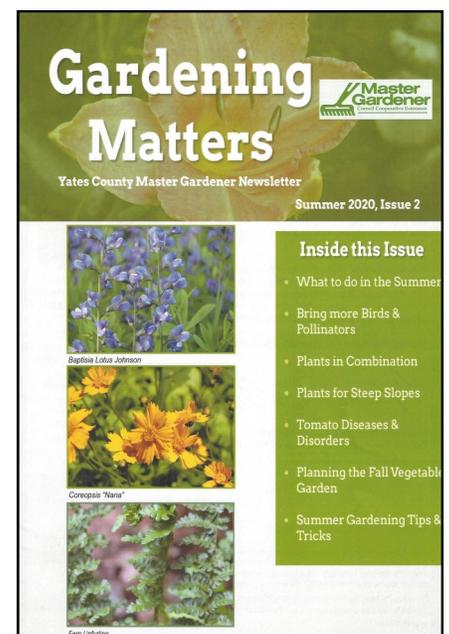
What is **Gardening Matters**? *Gardening Matters* is a newsletter published four times a year in spring, summer, fall, and winter, and is put together by the Yates County Master Gardener Program. Our goal behind this is to be an educational resource for the home gardener. For \$10 per subscription, readers get:

- **Four issues with seasonally relevant tips and tricks to ensure your garden stays its best.**
- **Up-to-date information from Master Gardener Volunteers from all over the USA**

The opportunity to submit your questions or "gardening hacks" for a chance to be published in the future.

The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Cooperative Extension offices to extend gardening information to the local community. Over 1,500 volunteer Master Gardeners in New York State contribute educational services to meet the outreach mission of Cornell, influencing many thousands of consumers on horticultural issues. Up to their elbows in dirt, Master Gardeners see soil as the base for germination of seeds destined to become beautiful plants, blooming in their maturity.

As a result of COVID-19, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County has suspended all in-person workshops and gatherings until further notice. As we're all adapting to learning and working from home, we hope "Gardening Matters" will be a valuable tool during this uncertain time. Visit <http://yates.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/gardening-matters-newsletter> to learn more. Complimentary issues are available at Horning's and the KLA office.



Update: Seneca-Keuka Watershed 9 Element Plan**Covering: "Public Outreach Session No 1"****Steve Butchko-KWIC, Mark Morris-KLA and Colby Petersen-KL Watershed Mgr**

Thank all of you that were able to join us at our first Seneca-Keuka Watershed 9 Element Plan (9E Plan) public outreach panel presentation on 24th of August.

Ian Smith, Seneca Watershed Steward for the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO) opened with the agenda and introduction of speakers.

Ian spoke of the several negative water quality trends that are evident across the Finger Lakes. Invasive species have threatened the waters: zebra mussels have been around for decades, and we now have emerging species of concern. Quagga mussels are colonizing deeper in the lakes, starry stonewort is on the rise, and Cayuga Lake has been battling Hydrilla for several years.

In 2017, Harmful Algal Blooms were observed in all 11 Finger Lakes for the first time with blooms now an annual occurrence in both Seneca and Keuka Lakes and more frequent and intense flooding events are also occurring, exemplified by the devastating floods of August 2018 in the Town of Lodi.

In response to these and other challenges, the process to start the 9E Plan got underway in 2018 when representatives Mark Venuti (SWIO), Steve Butchko- Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC), Dan Corbett- Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA), Mark Morris- Keuka Lake Association (KLA) and Lisa Cleckner- Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) applied for funding to develop a 9E Plan for the Seneca-Keuka watershed. In 2019, the New York State Department of State's (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program awarded funding to the Town of Geneva on behalf of the partner agencies.

The key word in the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan is "Local". The success of a watershed plan hinges on effective communication and outreach. This public outreach is key to our program. We will have two more, one in 2021 and one in 2022.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is engaged in our project through our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that we have formed. Scientists from the DEC "Finger Lakes Hub" are reviewing plans for data collection and modeling, making data available to our water quality team, and providing resources and standards for field data collection.

The project stakeholders SWIO, KWIC, SLPWA and KLA became the Executive Committee to manage the budget, capture technical expertise through contract agreements, manage objectives with specific actions and maintain timelines. Their active participation is key, as representatives of these organizations will ultimately be responsible for both completing the planning project and implementing the recommended actions.

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) includes additional water resource management professionals, researchers and faculty from academic institutions, agricultural interests, regional and county planning agencies. This group has had input into the project twice now, 27 October and most recently 29 June.

Ian thanked everyone for joining us this evening and allowed Liz Moran the floor for her portion of the panel discussion.

Liz Moran PhD. Liz is the principal scientist at EcoLogic our project's primary consultant. Liz and her team are integrating the information gained through the collaborative planning process into a focused 9E Plan to guide community efforts on lake management. EcoLogic is involved with watershed and water quality planning across the Finger Lakes bringing valuable experience and knowledge to our watershed.

Liz covered in her panel of the presentation four key topics as to how, watershed management planning follows a classic 4-step process

- (1) Where are we now? State of the lake and watershed, both natural and how people use the lands and waters-
 - (2) Where are we going? Trends. The watershed management plans for Seneca and Keuka were completed years ago, so we have good baseline data and continued data collection. Also changes in demographics, population, farming practices, development, technology,
 - (3) Where do we want to be? Vision, community comprehensive plans, open space plans
 - (4) How do we get to the desired future? The Plan will provide a roadmap of partners, programs, and projects along with as much detail as our collective efforts can compile. These details encompass what, where, and when. They also address costs and benefits, and prioritization- in an era of limited funding, what is the most beneficial thing we can do with the funds we have available?
- Finally, the 9E Plan embraces the concept of adaptive management. How do we measure progress and determine what else needs to be done?

In New York, the DOS has been providing funds for collaborative, community-based planning efforts for decades. More recently, the DEC has been guiding communities through the 9E Plans as they include a key component lacking in traditional watershed management plan.

Plans are based on the same foundational elements that include:

- Locally driven
- Science-based
- Adaptive management

Plans also require approval from DOS and DEC to ensure they meet guidelines.

The major difference is a heightened emphasis on water quality modeling as a tool to quantify how land uses affect pollutant runoff. Modeling is an especially powerful management tool watersheds, such Seneca-Keuka where non-point sources of pollution are the major factors affecting water quality.

We will be working closely with scientists from the DEC "Finger Lakes Hub" and DEC Albany scientists on the modeling tasks.

This extra level of detail ensures that the plan will meet EPA 9E Plan framework requirements, and in turn helps access federal and state funding sources. Two 9E Plans have been completed thus far with several others underway.

Here is the list of the 9E Plan's elements that the DEC has been embraced as watershed planning model:

1. Quantify sources of pollution-when, what, and how much
2. Calculate reductions to reach goals
3. Identify effective Best Management Practices to achieve target reductions
4. Estimate need for financial and technical assistance
5. Actively engage with stakeholders
6. Set implementation schedule
7. Track milestones
8. Define metrics to assess improvements
9. Monitor to track metrics

Note that these are not sequential (especially element 5- communications) Overall the nine elements capture the four-step paradigm (where are we now, where are we going, where do we want to be, and how do we get there) – in a more quantifiable manner.

As noted earlier, 9E Plans are best suited to address non-point source pollution, which is what we are primarily dealing with in the Seneca-Keuka watershed.

The lakes and watershed are not static, continued monitoring and evaluation will be needed to incorporate changes in the watershed and water quality, shifts in community perspectives or priorities, and inform implementation efforts.

The planning work completed over decades provides a strong foundation for the 9E Plan. Our team is building on this extensive knowledge base.

Existing plans include literally hundreds of recommendations. How do they get prioritized? – The 9E Plan will provide a framework and tool for guiding these important decisions.

Especially given that non-point sources are a major contributing source of nutrients and sediment, regulatory approaches are limited. Regulatory approaches work well for point sources such as wastewater treatment plants, and there are many case studies to document that. However, for non-point sources voluntary incentive-based approaches are needed. New York is a home rule state, meaning that land use decision powers are largely vested at the municipal level (towns and villages). The watershed extends over all or parts of 6 counties and includes one city, 36 towns and 13 villages.

The Seneca-Keuka watershed is an area that extends from the western Towns of Branchport and Hammondsport to the eastern Towns of Waterloo and Horseheads. Major inflows to Keuka Lake include Cold Brook, Sugar Creek, Glen Brook, and Wagener Glen Creek. The outlet of Keuka Lake begins at the Village of Penn Yan and enters Seneca Lake at the Village of Dresden, positioned in the middle of the western shore of Seneca Lake. Seneca's southern Village of Watkins Glen, Towns of Hector and Lodi on the east and City of Geneva at the north.

An additional major inlet to Seneca Lake is Catharine Creek, located at the southern end of Seneca Lake. The primary outflow of Seneca Lake is the Seneca River/Cayuga-Seneca Canal. The project area encompasses about 711 square miles. There are sub-watersheds that comprise our basis level of analysis in modeling, developing recommendations, and setting priorities. Technically, these sub-watersheds are classified by water resource managers as Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12 sub-watersheds, recognizing that sub-watersheds are nested within larger drainage basins.

The vision and goals component of the watershed planning process is essential in answering the question of, “where do we want to be in the future, what would we like to see achieved or preserved”.

During this step, it is important to note that others may have different perceptions of what they value most. For example, you might dive into the lake and feel annoyed by vegetation brushing your legs as you swim. Meanwhile, your neighbor might be on her dock fishing, saying she has never seen the fish bite so well and loves the aquatic growth for habitat. It is all about listening, appreciating perspectives, and finding a path that balances community needs and desires.

Seneca and Keuka are not on this journey alone. All 11 Finger Lakes are confronting these challenges.

New York State is actively responding to water quality challenges on multiple fronts

- Established the water quality team “Finger Lakes Hub”
- Expanded monitoring – all 11 have been in Citizen’s Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) since 2017
- 018- Completed HABs action plans for 12 priority lakes, including several Finger Lakes (Skaneateles, Cayuga, Owasco, Conesus and Honeoye)
- 9E Plan grants
- Increased funding support to soil & water conservation districts,
- Public information about risks of cyanobacteria

At the same time, each lake and watershed have their unique circumstances – in land use, agricultural crops and practices, tourism priorities, demographics, local industries, water and wastewater infrastructure. That is why the local participation and the partnerships are so essential to success.

Presently, the watershed is known for its rural character, scenic vistas, abundant vineyards, and wineries that spur tourism. The lakes themselves supply potable drinking water to surrounding communities, provide a beautiful place for recreation via boating and

swimming, historically support a world-class fishery and provide a wonderful environment in which to live.

Last October, Ian and Colby reached out to PAC members to identify one or two things that they hoped the 9E Plan would help preserve, protect, or restore. They received over 50 individual comments and compiled them to form the foundation for the Vision & Goals section. The results of that exercise are summarized on this slide. Many respondents cited protecting human health and water supplies and maintaining the recreational uses of the lake as their top issue. Many other comments referenced the importance of preserving the watershed's agricultural and open spaces landscape and economy and the communities' rural character. Comments also recognized the imperative to prepare for a changing climate and practice sound land management to reduce the risk of pollution and flooding.

Recently, Ian and Colby reached out again to ask for "letters from the future". Imagine that you are writing to a friend who moved away prior to the 9E Plan being finished and implemented. Twenty years later, write to your friend and describe what has changed.

Liz read a synopsis of the letters:

"The Seneca-Keuka Nine Element Plan will lead to improvements in water quality that restore natural ecosystems and protect human health, thereby maximizing the economic, social and cultural value of these threatened resources. The means for achieving this will ensure preservation and enhancement of the agricultural vitality of the region as well as other highly valued natural resources that together define the character of the landscape and community."

Part of making this vision a reality is managing point and non-point source pollution as land use and development patterns change, as non-point source pollution of sediments and nutrients can exacerbate HABs and aquatic growth, therefore threatening this vision for the future.

Today, we want to get your feedback on what you would like to see achieved or preserved, what types of things you envision for this watershed in the future. So, at this time we would ask you to perform a similar exercise: pretend you're writing a letter to an old friend who moved away twenty or so years ago and describe to them what the area is like now. Jot down whatever comes to mind when you think of ideal conditions for the Seneca-Keuka watershed and ask yourself what makes it a great place to live and what would make that friend ready to pack-up and move back. A single sentence or a just a couple of adjectives would prove helpful. We are compiling those comments, chat room notes and questions and comments made at the end of the presentation and make a summary available to you in the next newsletter, stay tuned.

Liz thanked the audience and opened the panel presentation to Michael Werth.

Mike is a scientist at Anchor QEA who leading our modeling tasks. Anchor QEA is our key consultant of our team to complete the quantitative assessment of how we use the watershed's landscape and how those uses affect the transport of nutrients and sediment to the waterways. Mike and his colleagues have conducted this water quality work throughout the United States.

Mike began his presentation by explaining that a 9E Plan requires a quantitative tool to analyze how natural features and human activities on the landscape affect watershed export of water, nutrients, and sediment to our lakes. Models help us understand these relationships. And well-constructed models help us ensure that we capture the unique attributes of the Seneca -Keuka watershed system. Once a model is constructed and tested, it provides a basis for testing management actions. This, in turn, helps the community define priority areas and actions to reduce the risk of excessive nutrients and sediment washing into the lakes. The modeling team selected the basin-scale model Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) for the watershed model.

This model is widely used as a tool to evaluate the effect of different land management practices in large watersheds, particularly in areas where agriculture is an important land use such as here in the Seneca-Keuka watershed. SWAT models are either completed or underway to support other Clean Water Plans including Cayuga, Owasco, and Canandaigua and other large New York lakes. The model simulates input of nutrients and sediment from the landscape in response to rainfall and runoff conditions. Because areas of the watershed flow into Keuka Lake on the way to Seneca Lake and ultimately to Lake Ontario, we are also developing a simple in-lake model of Keuka Lake. (KLA readers, this is a significant addition to the project that we were able to include which was not in the original contract. With the support and direction of the DEC Finger Lakes Hub, we were able to include it). This model will quantify the relationship between inputs of nutrients and sediment to Keuka Lake, the quality of Keuka Lake waters (focus on phosphorus, water clarity, and algal abundance) and the quality of water leaving Keuka Lake and flowing into Seneca.

We selected a relatively simple model for Keuka Lake known as BATHTUB, which was developed by Dr. Bill Walker for the Army Corps of Engineers. Bath tub is an empirical or data-driven model, which simulates water quality conditions in response to changing conditions in the watershed. Ideally, we'd be constructing a model of Seneca Lake as well, but it's much too large and complex a system to model within the scope and budget of this project.

To develop and calibrate the watershed SWAT model, two classes of data are needed: non-direct, or spatial data-sets, and direct, which serve as either input to the model or used to calibrate the model.

Spatial data-sets include attributes such as hydrography, slope, elevation, and soils which are publicly available. These data-sets delineate the sub-basins and define various stream segments to incorporate into the model. Land cover is an additional publicly, available spatial data-set we use, sourcing data from the 2016 National Land Cover Database. One unique feature of this watershed is the extent of viticulture, so we have been coordinating with Yates County and regional viticulture experts to map that information and integrate it into the land cover database.

For direct measurements, one of the important data-sets is meteorological data. There are several official weather stations within or adjacent to the watershed. These stations record data including precipitation and air temperature which are important model inputs. Stream flow and water quality data were sourced from a combination of stakeholder monitoring going on and some USGS stream gauges to measure water flow. We have gathered point source information from the EPA ECHO database.

Another important task is to understand land management practices. For this information we rely on local experts at such as Planning Departments, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Highway Departments.

You might be wondering how the SWAT model can help make better management decisions.

Once setup and calibration of SWAT are completed, the model output will help managers identify areas of potential concern (both geographically and in terms of specific land uses and management practices). Recall that the model projections will be at the HUC-12 sub-watershed scale. These insights can be used to help set priorities for implementation of the 9E Plan recommendations.

The local experts can help identify and screen realistic goals and targets, based on current practices, and the level of interest in implementing any voluntary incentive-based practices.

The modeling tool will also quantify the relative contributions of point sources (for example, treated wastewater) and non-point sources (land-based runoff) to the overall nutrient budget of the lakes.

This information can help potential funding agencies and local leaders be more confident that funds for watershed and lake management practices are invested wisely.

We want to emphasize that lake and watershed management is not a sprint, it's a marathon. Seneca and Keuka Lake have long water residence times due to their size and depth, so ecosystem scale changes in lake water quality will not be immediately evident. A "rule of thumb" in limnology is that it takes up to three times the water residence time for a lake to come to steady state in response to a loading reduction.

Since Seneca and Keuka Lakes have water residence times of around 18 and 7 years, respectively, we are looking at decades for an ecosystem-wide response.

However, more localized benefits such as improved stream habitat, reduced turbidity in a cove, or reductions in localized flooding are achievable on a much shorter time scale. Ultimately, the key thing to remember is that the sooner and more effective our actions and strategy, the more certain we are to achieve our vision and goals. An ongoing commitment to public outreach and citizen science can build commitment to change across the landscape.

Mike closed his panel presentation with a thanks to the audience and passing the floor to Colby Petersen.

Colby is the KWIC manager since 2014 carrying the responsibilities for the On-Site Septic systems inspection, performance and construction on Keuka Lake. In addition, since 2004, he has carried out the requirements of the Towns of Milo and Jerusalem inspections. He is also the Director of the Yates County Soil and Water District which includes two lake watersheds within Yates County, the Seneca-Keuka watershed and the Canandaigua Lake watershed. He has made great strides involving Best Practices Management (BPM) with our local agricultural community in protecting our lake water quality.

Colby began by giving us a snapshot of where we are now. He said, earlier this year, our team completed a detailed data inventory and screening exercise to see what data were available and suitable for use in the watershed and Keuka Lake models and identify gaps. We are fortunate that the Seneca-Keuka watershed has had so many outstanding monitoring efforts and partners over the years. We then conferred with DEC and local watershed monitoring groups to target gaps during the 2020 field season. Fortunately, most of our work has been able to proceed despite the pandemic restrictions. One important goal is to capture more storm events, as these events are responsible for most of the annual non-point source load. The SWAT model is set up and the initial calibration for flow looks excellent. We've also been updating existing characterization reports for Seneca and Keuka Lakes. The characterization also extends to examining local laws that affect water quality. We are very fortunate that this task will be conducted by students in Cornell's City and Regional Planning program. It is a wonderful partnership for us and a real-life, practical assignment for the students. Our project timeline extends over about a three-year period since commencing in mid-2019. The first several months were dedicated to assembling documents, organizing committees, reviewing existing monitoring data, identifying gaps, and planning the 2020 field program. At the same time, we were working with DEC to detail the model framework and specifications.

Our model development began in February 2020. Here we are in August, today, having our first public meeting. We intend to have our finalized model up and running in January 2021 and give DEC time to review it and then make any changes in response to their input.

By August 2021, our goal is to complete the inventory of site-specific information needed to apply the finalized model to various management alternatives. This site-specific information will come from the local partners (planning, soil & water, highway departments, etc.) as well as members of the PAC. Additional insights and opportunities will be gleaned from the Local Laws assessment project that the Cornell students and faculty are taking on. Our next public meeting is targeted for October 2021. The plan is to unveil the findings of critical areas and sources and gather your input on priority projects, programs, and partnerships. In December 2021 we will have a draft 9E Plan for public review and will schedule the third public meeting for April 2022. Following review and feedback, the 9E Plan will be finalized and adopted in 2022.

As a final point, we want to circle back to the reasons why the 9E Plan will be valuable. Members of the project team have been asked 'why continue to plan instead of moving to implementation'?

A short answer is funding. Both EPA and DEC have adopted the 9E planning as their standard. As such having a 9E Plan is becoming increasingly important to justify investment of public funds in watershed protection and restoration. Watersheds that have a plan in place that meets this standard such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed have received 10's of millions of dollars to implement improvement projects.

The long answer is that the nine-element framework is effective. Watershed modeling utilizes sound, scientific data, tools, and techniques to inform decision-makers and managers of appropriate and cost-effective approaches that can deliver improvements in water quality, as has been observed over recent years in the Chesapeake Bay and is one of the reasons it continues to receive millions in state and federal funding assistance. With funds, personnel and institutional capacity all limited, it is critical that our choices are sound. The future of the lakes and lands will reflect the collective decisions and actions of our community- including farmers, homeowners, highway department staff, local elected and appointed officials, foresters, educators, and so many others. The 9E Plan is designed to bring these interests together to hear their voices and work together as our watershed's future relies on these individuals and groups to implement the necessary change.

Before Colby closed, he acknowledged the project sponsors without whose support this project would not be possible. The Department of State is the primary sponsor and we are grateful for their active participation and guidance. DOS local watershed revitalization program grants also require a 25% local match in funds. These matching funds have been provided by Corning Inc., the Counties of Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates, Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative, Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, Keuka Lake Association, Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, and the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith College. Colby closed on behalf of the entire team saying how grateful we all are for your interest and engagement in this project. With that, Colby ended the panel presentation and opened up for questions and comments. Some of the questions were:

Who is ultimately responsible for 9E Plan? Where will it be housed? How will it be updated and incorporated into planning?
 How does SWAT incorporate septic discharges?
 Impact of cooling water discharge on the lake?
 How can I stay informed in between the public meetings?
 How will the model project the impacts of climate change?

We will bring all of the public questions and comments to you after compiling them for our next KLA newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to read up on our Seneca-Keuka Watershed 9 Element Plan project.

This Public Outreach Session was taped. Those who were unable to attend the meeting can view the recording found on the 9E webpage:

[\(http://senecawatershedio.wordpress.com/9e/\)](http://senecawatershedio.wordpress.com/9e/)

Steve, Mark and Colby

A Note From Friends of the Outlet:

Hello from Friends of the Outlet. We often hear from people who are discovering the Keuka Outlet Trail for the first time, haven't been on the trail in years, and some who have never heard of it at all. We would like to give some background information. The Keuka Outlet Trail is named for the waterway it follows, historically known as the Minnesetah River, which contains two beautiful waterfalls, Seneca Mills Falls and Cascade Mills Falls. The path which is easy to hike, bike, or ride on horseback follows a former railbed and canal towpath for just under 7 miles between Penn Yan on Keuka Lake and Dresden on Seneca Lake. Along the way, you can spot remnants of those former uses, as well as many of the mills going back as far as the 1790s.

The trail is owned and managed by Friends of the Outlet, Inc., a nonprofit organization completely run by volunteers. These volunteers have worked tirelessly to make the trail safer, cleaner, more user friendly, and get the word out about this wonderful resource. With the support of our community, they have accomplished amazing things even in the past year including improved parking along the trail, a brand new pavilion, removal of hazardous buildings, and distribution of Historical Trail Guides. We anticipate the removal of two further hazardous buildings later this year which may close a portion of the trail near Cascade Mills Falls for about a week.

More information about the trail and how to support the Friends can be found at www.KeukaOutletTrail.org or the Keuka Outlet Trail Facebook Page. We hope to see you on the trail soon whether it's for walking, running, fishing, picnicking, hiking, birding, studying plants, biking, horseback riding, or hanging out by the Falls.

Thank you.

Phillip M. Rahr, President

Friends of the Outlet, Inc.

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ROSALIND & MIKE BELL—953 OLD PINES TR—PY
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MEL & DOROTHEA GOLDMAN-888I CTY RTE 76-H'SPORT
JAMES & CAROL HOVEY—1066 ELR-DUNDEE
MIKE KLEIN-6549 WBD-KPARK
ANNE & GARRY MACKIEWICZ-OFF-LAKE
THE ART STUDIO—JEFF & CRISSY MCGINNESS-126 MAIN ST—PY
JEFFREY MCKEE-10316 WLR-H'SPORT
JAMIE & ANDRIANNA MCNALLY-817 OLD PINES TR-PY
KEVIN & CATHY MURRAY-676 ELR-PY
JON & SUE NELSON-462 CRESCENT BEACH-B'PORT
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Please help by encouraging your neighbors to become KLA members.

Directory 2020

The publication of this directory is currently in progress. You can still submit your cottage names to ellenmaceko@yahoo.com. We will also still accept sponsors' ads. Contact the KLA Office for info. info@keukalakeassoc.org, 315-694-7324

NAVIGATION & RECREATION COMMITTEE - Ira Goldman



We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer with the good weather we have had most of the time this year. We have had a below average amount of rain this summer and as of mid-August the lake level is at the lower end of the target range, we still have a couple of good boating months left and without additional rain the level could drop further as we go through the fall. Please keep this in mind as you plan your boating activities for the fall and return to your favorite launch ramp for haul out. We remind all boaters that under NYS Navigation Law (S45-AA), Keuka Lake has a special provision 200 foot “no wake / maximum 5 mph” zone. This is more than the standard 100 foot zone that is established under NYS law for other waterways within the state and becomes more important to avoid damage from hitting submerged objects close to shore if the water level drops. Some have interpreted this to mean that boats cannot enter the 200’ zone but that is not the case except for designated swimming areas marked by buoys approved by NYS. For more on this topic read the discussion about bow fishing later in this article.

Safe Boating Awareness "5.200"

Speaking of the 200’ slow speed zone, you read in the June newsletter about the “5.200” campaign that the KLA has initiated in agreement with the Steuben and Yates County Sheriff’s Marine Patrol. This came about because of a proposal from KLA member Jean Thompson who was concerned that in spite of the sheriff’s department’s efforts many boats were traveling at speeds well above the five mile per hour legal limit within 200 feet of shore, often within 50 to 75 feet. She observed that this endangers swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, and others who use that area for more relaxed fun. It also damages the shoreline and the repetitive wakes pull more and more of the beaches into the lake. Jean proposed the creation of a decal that could be applied to vessel dashboards and that idea was expanded to include auto bumper stickers and now lawn signs. We thank Jean for her initiative and it is an example of how the KLA is strengthened by the participation and ideas of our members!



In the August e-newsletter we announced the availability of lawn signs and an opportunity to get larger decals to promote the program. If you missed that, the information is repeated here. In response to member comments at the annual meeting, we ordered 60 18”x24” double-sided lawn signs to promote the 5.200 campaign using a modified version of the car decal graphic. About half of these have been placed at the various launch ramps, marinas and restaurants where we placed the revised speed limit signs in 2017. The rest were offered to KLA members for free on a first come, first served basis and to non-members at a price of \$10 each. If you have comments or observations about the effectiveness of this program, please contact the Navigation and Recreation Committee.



Nav. & Rec. continued

Larger Oval Sticker Interest:

We are still collecting member interest in having larger (8" x 12") 5.200 oval stickers that could be used on mooring buoys and other objects to inform boaters about the 200' zone. We expect the price to be between \$2 and \$3 each, if you are interested in having some of these, please contact the KLA office with your name and quantity and we will let you know if we decide to place an order.

Fisheries Update from Brad Hammers, DEC Region 8 Aquatic Biologist:

The cisco restoration plan is continuing with an additional 94,500 stocked in 2019 bringing the total over two years to just under 195,000. Preliminary results from the tagging study suggest that survival is approximately 5%. In cooperation with US Geological Survey and Cornell University, the DEC plans to stock an additional 100,000 in the fall of 2020. A small number of the stocked fish will have tracking transmitters and we expect to continue to see buoys around the lake that mark the location of the receivers for this system. Please be careful when fishing or boating around these buoys so as not to move them from the intended location.



In July, the DEC and USGS did a DNA sampling to track the growth of the cisco population. They were assisted by three KLA members who provided their docks as a location for the staff to do this work. The intent is to repeat these samplings in the fall after the next batch of cisco are stocked. The salmonid stocking this year is going to be limited to a small number of Rainbow Trout and no stocking of Brown Trout or Atlantic Salmon. The reduction in predators was part of the plan proposed in 2017 to re-establish ciscos.

As you may have read in the August KLA e-newsletter, the practice of bow fishing for carp has raised questions about the rights of property owners and those fishing nearby. Barring any local town/county ordinances prohibiting the discharge of bows, all New York waters otherwise open to fishing are legal to bow fish for carp during the open bow fishing season any hour of the day or night. New York State water includes all surface water of Keuka Lake up to the mean high-water mark when inundated. Private property exists on the bottom of the lake from land to the low water mark, unless otherwise denoted on a particular property deed. Docks, swim platforms, boat lifts, and boat houses are private property. Persons would need permission to enter private property as defined above but not to fish from the NYS water around private property. An explanation from the DEC Environmental Conservation Officers who patrol Keuka Lake can be found on the KLA web page https://www.keukalakeassociation.org/pdf/post/pdf229_pdf.pdf As always, courtesy and care for property and fishing on both sides can go a long way towards solving any concerns.

Fire Safety on Board:

As you may have read in the August e-newsletter we again had a boat fire on Keuka Lake this year, the second year in a row that a boat has been destroyed due to failure to follow safety procedures when dealing with gasoline engines. Fortunately this time there were no injuries and the two occupants were able to reach shore a short distance away because they were wearing life jackets. This was an exception to the rule of staying with the boat if you have an emergency and find yourself in the water. You can read the full explanation of boating fire prevention practices on the KLA web page at https://www.keukalakeassociation.org/key_topic.php?id=5

Fall Boating Reminders:

As you begin to wind down your boating activities this fall, please keep in mind a number of safety concerns: **WATER TEMPERATURE** - Make sure you are properly dressed and outfitted as the lake temperatures begin to drop rapidly (please see the water temperature graph on the KLA website). It has historically dropped from the 70's down into the 50's from Mid-September to mid-October. **SAFETY EQUIPMENT** - It is not too late to get a complimentary Vessel Safety Check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Americas Boating Club. These free exams take about twenty minutes; check for all of the required safety equipment required on board and can be done with a boat in or out of the water. If you are interested contact Ira Goldman igoldman@localnet.com or Anthony Validzic uscgaux0920407@gmail.com (or look on line for www.safetyseal.net)

Also, keep in mind that NYS Brianna's law requires all persons born on or after January 1, 1993 operating a mechanically propelled vessel to be a holder of a Boater Safety Course Certificate in 2021 and 2022. This

Nav & Rec—cont. from pg. 13

requirement steps up in 2023, 2024 and 2025 by which time all motor boat operators will be required to have this certificate in their possession. This is in addition to the long standing requirement that all PWC operators must hold this same Boater Safety Certificate.

Those born on or after:	Will need a certificate when operating a motorized vessel in:
January 1, 1993	2020
January 1, 1988	2022
January 1, 1983	2023
January 1, 1978	20204
All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025	

In addition to the classroom courses offered by our local Sheriffs, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and America's Boating Club (ex-USPS), New York State has now approved seven on line courses. You can find them listed on the NYS Parks and Recreation webpage <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>. The BoatUS course is completely free, the other six courses are free but require a fee just under \$30 to take their exam while the Americas Boating Club course requires that the fee be paid to register. Whether or not you are required by law to have a course certificate, it still is a great idea for EVERYONE to take and pass a Boater Safety Course especially with all of the course options available.

Lastly, but most importantly, please keep in mind the law regarding life jacket use during the winter months:

“No owner or operator of a pleasure vessel less than twenty-one feet, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks shall permit its operation, between November 1st and May 1st, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable lifejacket of an appropriate size when such vessel is underway.”

Note that regardless of the time of the year, inflatable lifejackets only count towards meeting the necessary requirement to have a life jacket for all aboard if they are being worn, not stowed away on the boat. Also all paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, stand up paddleboards and pedal boats) are required to have a life jacket on board for each person and at least one sound producing device, best accomplished by tying a whistle to each life jacket!

HAVE A GREAT FALL!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE— Maria Hudson

HERE YE! HERE YE!

Be it known that the Keuka Lake Association Board of Directors has an opening for a Director. Due to a job move, Michelle Rowcliffe has vacated her position as Director from the Town of Milo.

We thank Michelle for her service on the Board!

At this time, we are accepting applications from KLA members to fill the vacancy. Also, see info on our webpage.

Please send a Letter of Interest and resume to: info@keukalakeassoc.org

LAKE LEVEL UPDATE—WAYNE HAND

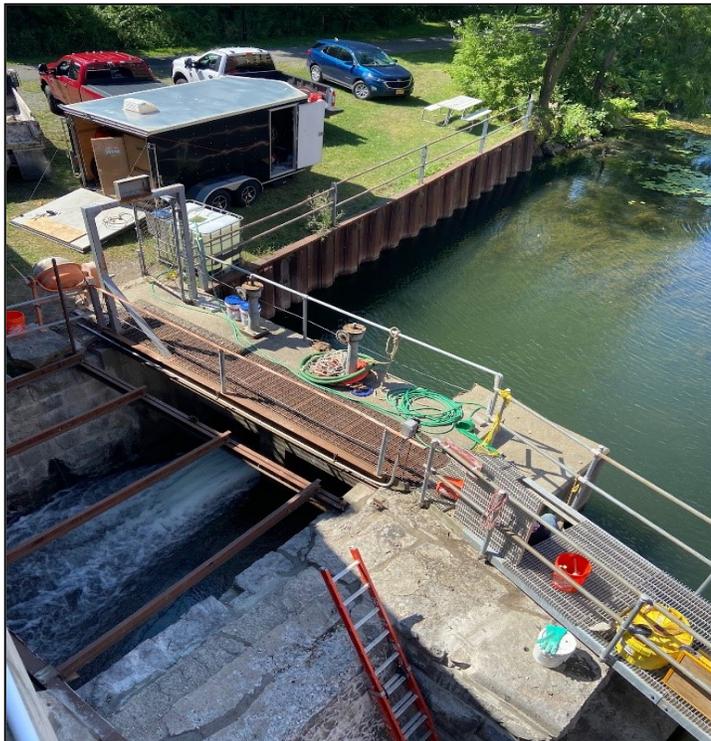


Due to the extreme dry weather lately, the lake level has been dropping slowly, but steadily. For the most part, the regulated water outflow has been kept at the NYSDEC required minimum, but between that and evaporation, still has exceeded any inflow to the lake resulting from precipitation. The current level is just below the minimum objective for this time of year. Hopefully, we will soon receive some much needed rain to help get the level back up to the mid objective. Otherwise, it will not be possible to maintain desired levels until the fall draw down begins the end of November. **Please keep an eye on the level over the next 3 months to ensure that your boat does not get stuck in its lift, or hit something in shallow areas like the entrance to the outlet.**

The Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC), which owns and operates the six flood control gates in Penn Yan, has contracted with a firm to repair several minor deficiencies in the control structures located under the Penn Yan main street bridge, primarily resulting from normal water erosion. These have been identified by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) at several previous annual safety inspections, including one conducted just last month. These have noted water seepage around some of the stone blocks on the downstream side of the gates, and some of the rip rap and bedding stone were eroding and/or washing away. KLOC developed a plan for remediation and applied for a state grant to fund these very minor and non-critical repairs. KLOC has been approved to receive a state grant covering a large share of the repair cost, but authorization to disperse funds awaits legislative action and Governor Cuomo's signature. The repair project was recently bid by multiple contractors, awarded, and work has begun. The KLA has aided this effort by recently providing a \$15,000 grant to KLOC for the effort. The total cost is estimated at around \$100,000.

Below are a couple of recent photos during the recent repair project, which should be completed by the end of August or early September. Unfortunately, this repair effort has probably at times resulted in more water release than the minimum amount during August.

Gates # 1 & 2 shown in photo on left, gates # 3, 4, & 5 in photo on right:



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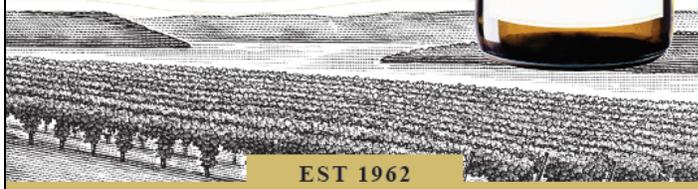
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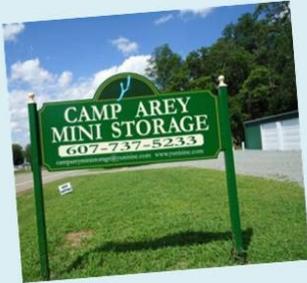


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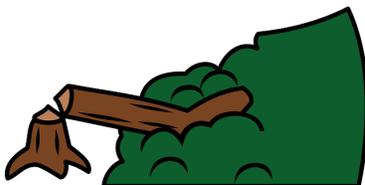
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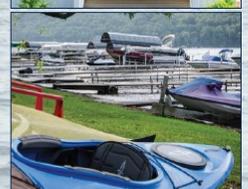
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KLAEIDOSCOPE OF KEUKA 2020 PHOTOS



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER

THE WEASELS OF KEUKA LAKE

DAVE DECALESTA—CRITTER CORNER IS BACK!!



This article focuses on the weasels (*Mustelids* to the scientists) of Keuka Lake. All have long, slender bodies and the dense fur sought-after by the trapping/fur industry until public opinion against with trapping resulted in a steep decline in demand for fur-trimmed clothing. Weasels exhibit a characteristic loping gait and possess scent glands which they use to mark their territories. All excepting the otter are more active at night, which explains why so few are seen. They exhibit a reproductive phenomenon called delayed implantation. Females breed in the fall and resulting fertilized embryos go dormant for months after initial development, resulting in young being born in late spring, when there is more food available after winter severity and reduced prey populations.

Otters are the largest weasels with males hitting 30 or so pounds at nearly four feet in length. Adult females are about 25% smaller. Dark brown, and with webbed feet and closely-packed hairs, weasels are agile swimmers and need only their dense fur coat to remain insulated from cold water and snow. Historically, otters existed in virtually all watersheds of New York, but declined because of unregulated harvest (their dense fur was prized for winter coats), habitat destruction, and water pollution. Trapping was banned in 1936, but reopened slowly about 10 years later. By the early 1990s otters were found only in the eastern half of New York State. However, an aggressive re-introduction program by the NY DEC's New York River Otter Project is repopulating the Finger Lakes area with otters trapped from the Catskills and Hudson River Valley. Litter size ranges from 1-3 and the young pups remain with the parents in playful family groups for about a year. Pups hang out in bankside dens (built by beavers and muskrats) or in abandoned beaver lodges. Part of otter play involves sliding down slides they build along banks. Otters are aquatic hunters (fish, crayfish, frogs, and mussels) and may decimate local turtle populations, feeding on hibernating turtles in winter. Despite the claims of uninformed fishermen, otters do not wipe out local fish populations, moving instead to other waterways if fish populations decline. Female otters are ferocious defenders of their pups, so care must be taken to prevent dogs from swimming out to otter family groups in the water. Otters leave droppings comprised of fish scales, crawfish parts, mussel shells and other undigested dietary items scattered in piles (called latrines) on logs and other waterside objects like rocks.

Fishers are smaller cousins of otters, hunting their prey (rabbits, squirrels, mice, chipmunks, porcupines, grouse, turkeys, and other ground-nesting birds) in conifer woodlands, especially in riparian zones. Fishers are slightly smaller and slenderer versions of otters, with males reaching 3-4 feet in length but weighing less than 15 pounds. Like otters, female fishers are about 1/3 smaller than males. Unlike otters, fishers do not have webbed feet. Fishers at one time lived in the Finger Lakes area, but they were nearly trapped into extinction by the 1930s concurrent with large-scale deforestation that resulted in loss of habitat. However, as with otters, the NY DEC has engaged in an aggressive reintroduction program, trapping animals from established in the Adirondacks and the Catskills and releasing them into parts of Central New York, including the Finger Lakes Region. Females give birth to 2-3 kits and raise them in natural cavities found in snags, hollow logs, cavities in rocky outcrops, and brush piles and underground burrows. The kits stay with the mother until about 5 months of age, but then leave and do not form family groups like otters.

Martins are a miniature version of fishers, being about half the size at 24 inches long and 2+ pounds for adult males, females being about a ¼ smaller. Martens are primarily arboreal, hunting in mature coniferous forests, including hemlock, pines, spruces and firs. These trees provide denning sites and habitat for their primary prey species the red squirrel. Because of deforestation in western New York caused by unregulated timber harvest, martin habitat disappeared. That, combined with unrestricted trapping, resulted in the extirpation of martins from western New York decades ago. However, there is a thriving martin population in the Adirondacks and as central New York becomes increasingly reforested martins may make a comeback in places like the hillsides above Keuka Lake.

Mink are animals of riparian areas, mostly stream sides and lakesides. Dark brown in color, with a pale chin patch, mink exhibit the typical weasel shape—long and thin. They are a little smaller than martins (males are ~ 18 inches long at 3+ pounds; females check in at about 15 inches long and 1½ pounds). Mink are found

everywhere there are forested riparian habitats, including streams, ponds, rivers, and lakes and are sufficiently abundant to permit a winter trapping season. Mink litter size is a little larger than the typical *Mustelid*—about 4-8 kits. Typical prey includes muskrats, rabbits, mice and voles, fish, crayfish, amphibians, and small birds. Litter size is a little larger (4-8) than larger weasels. Their dense, luxurious fur was used for coats and trimmings and was in such demand (in the 50s-60s) that mink were raised in farms. Competition from Europe, and the growing stigma of wearing animal fur resulted in the end of mink ranching and trapping declined into a hobby rather than as a significant source of income. Although mink are mostly nocturnal, I frequently saw mink running along our seawall on a lake in Tennessee while sipping my morning coffee at daybreak.

Long-tailed weasels are habitat generalists, using open brushy fields, hedgerows and young forests that provide a large variety and abundance of prey species. Like other weasels they are primarily active at night. Males are about a half pound in weight and are about 20 inches long, of which 6 are tail—females weigh $\frac{1}{4}$ pound and are about 20% shorter than males. Litter size is 6-9 kits. These weasels are habitat generalists, using open brushy fields, hedgerows and forests providing a large variety and number of prey species. They eat anything that moves and is small enough to capture, including mice, voles, squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, reptiles and amphibians, ground-nesting birds and, unfortunately, chickens which get them in trouble with farmers.

Short-tailed weasel (also known as ermine) is the smallest NY weasel. Males are 9-12 inches long and weight ~ 3 ounces. Females are about $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller. Their tails are far shorter relative to total body length, which is a good separator from long-tailed weasels. This is the weasel that changes coat color: all white in winter to blend in with snow and dark brown in snow-less months to again blend in with their environment. Their white pelt was prized for coats and trimmings of royalty. Litter size is 6-7+ kits. Their prey base is similar to that of long-tailed weasels but they are not habitat generalists, preferring forestlands where they den in shallow burrows, hollow logs and rock piles.

A rogue's gallery of weasels from largest to smallest

Otter



Fisher



Martin



Mink



Long-tailed weasel



Ermine

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

A booklet was mailed to all 2020 KLA members containing the following:

- Introductory Letter from Dennis Carlson with the Meeting Agenda
- New Board Member Bios
- How to Access the KLA Meeting
- Nominations
- Treasurer's Report
- KLA Financial Review Recap
- KLAeidoscope of Keuka Calendar
- Alexander & Esther Wahlig Scholarships
- KLA Navigation & Recreation Report
- Sheriffs' Navigation Report Update - Boating Season 2019
- Update on our Watershed Management Plan - called the Nine Element (9E) Plan
- Watercraft Steward Program (WSP)
- Shoreline Monitoring Program (SMP)
- Water Quality Testing Programs
- Lake-Friendly Living for Homeowners: 15 practices to help protect and improve water quality
- Lake Level & Other KLA Activities for 2019-2020
- Proxy Vote—to be completed and mailed back to the KLA

Agenda for this Meeting will be as follows:

1. Welcome and Introduction of Current Officers and Directors
2. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Overview of the KLA's activities for the past year.
4. Recognition of Retiring Board Members
5. Nominating Committee Report and approval of Board slate
6. Questions
7. Adjournment

I. Welcome & Introduction of Current Officers and Directors – Dennis Carlson

Dennis Carlson introduced himself and stated that as the Keuka Lake Association's President and at this time, as mandated by our By-Laws, he called the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Keuka Lake Association to order. He also wanted to state for the record that we have the quorum to conduct the KLA's business. He called on Doug DeFranco to comment on how questions will be handled.

He stressed that this organization is very fortunate to have a committed, engaged and active **working** Board of Directors, whose efforts allow the KLA to carry out its wide range of activities that you as members count on. Being a Board of Directors Member is something that indicates a **passion** for Keuka Lake and a desire to **diligently work** to protect and preserve it.

At this time, he recognized the KLA Board of Directors and Officers.

Your Board of Directors:

For Barrington –Diane Edwards and Scott Drake

For Jerusalem –Tim Cutler

For Milo – Michele Rowcliffe and Dick Osgood

For Pulteney – Maria Hudson and Thom Love

For Urbana – Sam Pennise and Ellen Maceko

And For Wayne – Mancy Feinstein and Wayne Hand

Your At-Large Board Members are –Doug DeFranco Steve Hicks, Nonie Flynn, John Hagreen & Steve Brigham

The KLA's Officers are – Ray Dell - Vice President

Steve Tomlinson – Treasurer

Ira Goldman – Secretary

Bill Laffin - Past President

Dennis recognized the very dedicated technical advisors to the Board of Directors:

Dr. Tim Sellers, Associate Provost for Academic Innovation, Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences, and Director of the Keuka College Center for Aquatic Research on water quality issues.

Mark Morris, Ex Officio Board Member for the 9 Element Plan Development.

Laura Bailey, Invasive Species Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County

Scott Demmin, of DSD Webworks on web design and internet issues which includes the real time lake level and water temperature displays on our web site. Scott was unable to attend.

Colby Peterson – Technical Advisor regarding Water Quality – Yates County Soil and Water

Arlene Wilson, Executive Director Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County, who, also could not attend.

Dennis stated that no activity of the Keuka Lake Association would be possible without the total dedication of our Office Administrator – Margo McTaggart.

Dennis thanked them all for their tremendous support and efforts.

In our continual communications, the KLA Board strives to keep you informed of its activities via the KLA printed quarterly newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, web site and our Facebook Page.

One continued message that you hear is about membership and knowing that each of you that are here today are members, we thank you. The overall health of the association (as you have read and will hear more later), is strong with the main source of revenue coming from memberships. With only about 50% of the lake property owners represented in our 1700 membership base and the demands growing for areas of our involvement, membership renewals and new members are important. So, again we thank you for keeping your membership up to date and through your day to day contacts neighbors helping us grow our membership base.

With it being very easy to become distracted, I am very pleased that the KLA has maintained its direction and commitment to its overall mission to Preserve and Protect Keuka Lake and the Watershed for Future Generations. I would also like to state that the financial health of the organization is strong which gives us a sound foundation to work from.

We will have an update on the Lake Patrol providing Stats on this last season. We will introduce you to the Alexander F. and Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Watershed Endowment Scholarship Recipients, the winners of the Annual Kaleidoscope Photo Winners as well as carry out mandated KLA business.

Via the USPS, you should have received a copy of the 2020 Annual Meeting Booklet containing updates and copies of information being covered today.

We continue to actively communicate with the 2 Sheriff's Departments, the local DEC officers, the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative and the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact on issues of concerns to our members. We participate in the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance and The Land Use Leadership Alliance. The KLA was a founding sponsor for these groups and we support their efforts to develop informational outreach to municipal leaders in the watershed.

There is one point that I believe is important for all of us to understand. While there are many vital and noble causes around Keuka Lake and in the Finger Lakes region, our activities and those that allow us to maintain our status as a 501C3 organization are spelled out in our Certificate of Incorporation. "The KLA is organized to promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat, and general environmental conditions of Keuka Lake and its watershed by sponsoring or undertaking scientific research, by collecting, preserving, publishing and disseminating information concerning Keuka Lake and its watershed and by encouraging and supporting the enforcement of laws and regulations and patterns of development and technology aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the lake. You will hear much about these activities.

The past year, as with any year in a volunteer based organization, has been a busy one with more still on the plate to accomplish. Your Board of Directors and other volunteers do a tremendous job in representing the needs of Keuka Lake. Over the last 63 years, there have been hundreds of committed volunteer Board Members and Officers that have laid a solid foundation for lake preservation and protection and the fore sight of those people.

Thank You all for your continued support.

II. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting were distributed in the September 2019 newsletter as well as being posted on the KLA Website. Dennis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. There was a motion from Scott Drake, seconded by Diane Edwards to accept the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting. As there was no discussion, Dennis asked for a vote. The motion was passed.

III. Introduction of 2020 Scholarship Winner – Dennis introduced Meg Cole to award the 2020 Alexander and Esther Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarships to Kayla Anderson and Mickelvie Jensen both Penn Yan Academy Graduates. Winners of this award will each receive \$1,000 to support their education in the area of environmental sciences. Kayle will be attending SUNY Geneseo and Mickelvie SUNY Potsdam. Please join me in offering the best to both of these fine young people. And thank you to the Wahlig Family, the Scholarship Committee and best wishes to this year's recipients.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Steve Tomlinson – included in written reports. Dennis thanked Steve for all his years of service to the KLA, both as a Board Member and the Treasurer for the past 4 years.

V. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Dennis Carlson

Dennis stated that one of the duties of the KLA President is the recognition of those members of the Board of Director who have reached the end of their elected term. It is bittersweet to say farewell to any Board members who have been great volunteers and who have given tirelessly to the KLA over the past several years. He recognized the following retiring Members of the Board of Directors: Diane Edwards and Dick Osgood. The commitment of these individuals to the KLA has been phenomenal and should be a lesson for all current and future Board members. They will receive a pottery wine cooler with the KLA logo on it.

Dennis stated that just as Board members reach the end of their allowable terms, we elect new Board members at this meeting. I'd like to introduce Ray Dell, KLA Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee.

VI. Nominating Committee Report – Ray Dell

Ray reported that we had several very good candidates. The committee met numerous times in making their decisions. The biographies of the proposed new board members were in the booklet sent out prior to the Annual Meeting. Ray introduced the following to the KLA Board of Directors:

At-Large	Dieter Busch
At-Large	Michael Thomas
At-Large	Wayne Hand
At-Large	Catherine Gueli

And to re-elect:

Scott Drake	Ellen Maceko
Nonie Flynn	

Bill Laffin made a motion, seconded by Maria Hudson to accept the propose candidates to the Board. Proxy cards have been distributed and received from members who are eligible to vote and will be voted by President Dennis Carlson and Treasurer, Steve Tomlinson.

Dennis thanked Ray and the members of the Nominating Committee for their fine work and congratulated the new and re-elected Board members.

VII. KLAeidoscope of Keuka – Calendar Photo Contest – Candy Dietrich

Candy commented on the beautiful 70 entry photos for the 2021 calendar, which have been showing on the screen. She announced the winners of the monthly selections and prize winners. Candy encouraged people to submit photos for the next calendar.

VIII. Special Reports – Dennis introduced the next portion of agenda and asked that questions be limited until the completion of the meeting.

Navigation & Recreation – Ira Goldman

Due to Covid-19, the KLA was unable to hold its annual luncheon with the Sheriffs, DEC personnel and local police. However, their annual report is in the booklet. Prior to that, they were able to hold a “roundtable” at which the 5mph – 200 feet from shore Keuka law was discussed.

State of the Lake – Due to the COVID 19 Virus and the management of the closure issues at Keuka College, Dr. Sellers will not be presenting his state of the lake data at this time and hopefully will be sharing the data for 2019 in the very near future as things settle down.

Water Quality Committee and AIS Reports:

Laura Bailey – She showed and explained the 15 practices from their “Lake-Friendly Living for Homeowners” guide. She explained the Water Steward Program and Shoreline Monitoring program.

Maria Hudson – Maria thanked all of the KLA volunteers. She described the CSLAP (Citizen’s Statewide Lake Assessment Program) program, testing twice a month for 4 months, funded by the DEC. We get reports that compare us to other lakes. The other testing programs are PEERS and WAVE and shoreline monitoring (described in the booklet).

Mark Morris – Mark added that there will be a public meeting Aug 24.

Dennis thanked them all, including Colby Peterson.

Lake Level – Dick Osgood – He stated that the level is moving. He complimented KLOC on doing a good job with the gates.

5.200 Program – Scott Drake – Doug DeFranco designed a “logo” for this program. Decals are available at many outlets. They and signs are available at the KLA Office.

2020 KLA Directory – Margo McTaggart – Due to Covid restrictions on businesses, the Directory has been delayed. Work will continue in the fall.

Volunteers – Dennis thanked all of the KLA volunteers.

X. Questions/Comments followed.

Hoping rental companies tell renters how to behave around the lake
 What to do about dead fish – contact the DEC
 The D of H can assist renters as to water quality
 How close to docks can fishermen be? No limit

XI. Adjournment – At 10:05, Dennis asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Bill Laffin, seconded by Dieter Busch and approved by all.

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RECREATIONAL/MUSEUMS/ARTS

The Art Studio@126 Main, PY
Finger Lakes Boating Museum
Finger Lakes Museum
Fishy Business—Gerald Pease & Joanne Conley-Pease
Keuka Big Foot Charters-Dick Roller
Lakeside Country Club
Shoreline Rentals
YMCA Camp Cory

RESTAURANTS/SNACKS

Burgers & Beer of Hammondsport-Karin & David Fice
Keuka Restaurant*
The Switzerland Inn*
Lakeside Country Club
Top of the Lake

STORAGE FACILITIES

Camp Arey Mini Storage
Mustang Mini Storage

VETERINARY

Eastview Veterinary Clinic

WINES/LIQUORS

Water Street Wines & Spirits*

WINERIES/VINEYARDS

Azure Hill Winery, Inc.
Barrington Cellars-Ken & Eileen Farnan
Bully Hill Vineyards, Inc.*
Doyle Vineyard Management-Matt & Carre Doyle
Dr. Konstantin Frank Wine Cellars
Glenora Wine Cellars
Hunt Country Vineyards*
Keuka Spring Vineyards-Len & Judy Wiltberger
McGregor Vineyard Winery
Rooster Hill Vineyards

OTHER

Finger Lakes Connections.com
Finger Lakes Supply - Scott Sprague
Food Bank of the Southern Tier—Maria Strinni
The Southern Tier Shopper-Rita Butters
Village of Penn Yan

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY
RESERVED SPONSOR
SPACE IN OUR 2020
DIRECTORY AND ARE
INTERESTED, PLEASE
CONTACT THE KLA OFFICE
ASAP. THANK YOU..**

KLA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

TOTAL AMT ENCLOSED _____ CK# _____

Card number: _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ Signature: _____



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

____ **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** - \$1.00 each
Fill in your desired numbers here:



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

Whether they live on the lake or anywhere within the watershed, 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.

KLA DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President	Ray Dell	Barrington	Scott Drake
Vice-President	Maria Hudson		Steve Hicks
Treasurer	Diane Edwards	Jerusalem	Susan Oliver
Secretary	Ira Godman		Tim Cutler
At-Large	John Hagreen	Milo	Nonie Flynn
	Cathy Gueli		
	Michael Thomas	Pulteney	Maria Hudson
	Doug DeFranco		Thom Love
	Dieter Busch	Urbana	Sam Pennise
	Steve Brigham		Ellen Maceko
		Wayne	Nancy Feinstein
Past President	Dennis Carlson		Wayne Hand

KLA DECALS—FREE!

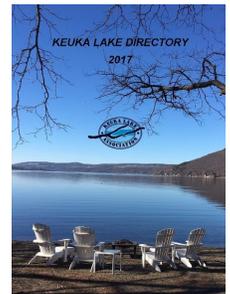
____ **Two KLA decals** -



____ **Two KLA Business decals**



KLA BUSINESS MEMBER



____ **LP HOLDERS: \$8.00 incl. S&H**

Available in the above local stores for \$5.00 + tax

____ **FREE 2017 Directories: \$5.00 S&H**
(Have an extra for your home, cottage, car or boat!)

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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business-Personal Business - \$60
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic - \$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner - \$60
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor - \$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron - \$150
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guardian - \$250 & more

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Check one)

_____ Check number

_____ Credit Card

**OR Join/Renew on line on our
website**

Total Amount: \$ _____

Card number: _____

Expiration Date: ___/___/___ Signature: _____

Mail application and payment to: **Keuka Lake Association, P.O. Box 35,
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. Please stop by if you are in the village. You can contact the office either by phone: call 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 December 2020 issue is November 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 - Dues renewal notices mailed.

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

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

KLA Business members and advertisers need and want your support/business!!!

When you need something done or want to make a purchase, please check out the list of businesses on page 27 of this newsletter and on our website under "Resources" > 'Business Directory'. Help is on the way!!

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

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

Watershed Vision & Goals

- Protect human health and water supplies
- Maintain recreational uses
- Protect agricultural economy, viewsheds, and community character
- Prepare for a changing climate - warmer waters, more intense storms, invasive species
- Manage point and nonpoint source pollution as land use and development patterns continue to change



YOUR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER HAS ARRIVED!