

SPRING 2024

LISTEN TO THE LAKE...

Official Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Association

A Message from the President...

BY STEVE BRIGHAM

I am delighted to welcome you to the vibrant season of spring. It is a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. The weather is warming, the birds have commenced singing, and our beautiful landscape will be coming to life once again. Soon we will be enjoying the great outdoors and creating lasting memories with our family and friends.

It is also that time of year when we all are doing spring cleanup from the winter; this year probably less so with the milder winter that we had.

Your KLA board is getting ready for the beginning of peak season. The team is focused on preparation for lake monitoring and HAB shoreline monitoring. They are also looking at any changes in fishing and boating regulations for this upcoming year.

I look forward to seeing you all on the water soon. Together, let's make this spring season one to remember.

Steve



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Water Quality

BY MIKE GOW, WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

One primary goal of lake and watershed management is to demonstrate the importance of a designed plan as the best tool for long-term reduction and prevention of problems.

A comprehensive management plan is the key to the long-term health of a lake and its watershed. And good plan describes the activities that can be undertaken by lake associations, government, the private sector and individuals. It empowers local residents, and helps to balance conflicting interests. Experience has reinforced the belief that management plans are the best method to ensure optimum use of the lake and surrounding land.

Ask any audience of lake enthusiasts to imagine the ideal lake and each person will have slightly different picture. Unfortunately, a lake cannot be all things to all people. Lake and watershed management is an art, informed by science, of balancing the demands of various users of the land and water. To keep lakes healthy, it is no longer possible to expect nature to take care of problems. Human activities combine with naturally occurring processes to create pollution and disturbances that exceed the natural capability of waters to dilute and purify. Managing a lake and its watershed means accounting for the needs of fish, plants, wildlife and people.

Management is the responsibility of all users of the lake and its watershed. Lake and watershed property owners must understand natural processes, limitations of science, tradeoffs, and even how to work with people. Good lake/watershed management pulls together all of these factors and then recommends a systematic approach to protecting and enhancing water resources.

Effective management is only possible when the ideas from the entire watershed and all interested parties are taken into consideration. The best “treatment” for a lake will resemble a health plan rather than a bandage. Lake management will include immediate actions as well as long-range watershed approaches...and will combine both preventive and remedial options. A comprehensive plan charts a course to identify causes and sources of problems, and a course to develop and implement solutions to the problems. Management practices must be revisited on a regular basis to keep it viable as the lake conditions and people’s expectations change. A lake management’s success is measured by the degree to which people and actions work together to solve conflicts, protect the lake, and prevent future problems.

The above information was taken from [Diet for a Small Lake](#), which can be found on the DEC’s website.



Welcome Sheriff Ryan!



As most of you are aware, Keuka covers two counties – Yates and Steuben.

The KLA board works closely with the Sheriffs of both counties- including an annual spring law-enforcement luncheon with the Sheriffs and DEC officials. As you are also likely aware, Sheriff Ron Spike, longtime sheriff of Yates County recently retired. Frank Ryan was elected this past November to serve as Yates County Sheriff. Below is his bio biography. The KLA looks forward to working with Sheriff Ryan and his team.



Sheriff Francis Ryan began his career with the Yates County Sheriff's Office in the summer of 1993 after graduating from SUNY Brockport with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Frank has worked in each division within the Sheriff's office beginning his career working as a part time corrections officer and marine patrol officer. Frank became a road patrol deputy in 1995, where he has spent the last 28 years. Frank has held the ranks of Deputy Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff First Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff Administrative First Sergeant, and Criminal Investigations Lieutenant as his last assignment before being elected Sheriff. During his road patrol career he served as a field training officer, field training supervisor, Firearms training unit supervisor and master instructor, Force Science analyst, use of force instructor, reality based training, and has instructed for many years and the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy for both police recruits and other instructor level classes. Frank is also an adjunct instructor at Keuka College. Frank resides in the Town of Potter with his Wife of 23 years Brenda, and have three adult children.

Oops!

It was brought to our attention that we misprinted part of the Membership Roster in our Winter Issue.

Our sincere apologies to those members we missed!

- Dave & Lynn Meaney
- Duane Mellor
- John & Maryann Mendel
- Robert & Linda Meredith
- Sandy Messing
- Marlene & Michael Meyer
- Adele Middaugh
- Paul & Nancy Middlebrook
- Nancy & Dave Middleton
- Rick & Jo Ann Milazzo
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- Erich & Teri Miller
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Cyclists & Motorists Can Work Together

BY NOLAN SMITH, LAKE LEVEL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Spring is right around the corner. We will soon be seeing more bikes on the roads around Keuka Lake. Below, a cyclist and a motorist share their thoughts about making the roads safe for everyone. Cooperation & mutual respect are essential for everyone's well-being on the road.



As a cyclist, here is what I'd like drivers to know:

- **Cyclists have the same right to the road as any other vehicle.** Yes, that means we follow the same rules too.
- **Please give us three feet distance while passing, even if that means crossing the yellow line.** Wait for a safe opportunity if there is oncoming traffic.
- **The shoulder is a scary place to ride.** There is often debris on the shoulder, drains are located there, and many have snowplow damage. We may be paying attention to these obstacles when you are trying to pass.
- **Don't park in the bike lanes.** It forces a cyclist to veer into traffic – nobody likes that.
- **Don't honk unnecessarily.** Honking can startle cyclists. Use your horn when necessary to signal your presence.
- **Watch for turning cyclists.** Cyclists' signals may not always be as visible as those of motor vehicles.
- **Anticipate cyclist behavior.** Cyclists may need to swerve to avoid obstacles like potholes or debris. Give us space and watch for hand signals.
- **Stay off your phone.** Distractions are a key reason for accidents.



As a motorist, here's what I'd like cyclists to know:

- **Obey traffic laws.** Follow the same traffic rules as motor vehicles, including stopping at red lights, signaling turns, and yielding right of way.
- **Use your hand signals.** Clearly signal your intentions to make your movements predictable.
- **Stay visible.** Wear bright clothing and use lights
- **Ride in the same direction as traffic.** Don't ride against the flow.
- **Stay in bike lanes or on the shoulder.** Use bike lanes and ride as far to the right as is safe and practical. This allows traffic to pass more easily.
- **Don't ride on the sidewalks.** Riding on sidewalks can surprise motorists when you suddenly enter the road.
- **Help me pass safely.** If riding two abreast in a small group, switch to single-file so I can more easily overtake your group.
- **Be predictable.** Maintain a steady line when cycling; avoid sudden, erratic movements.
- **Watch for car doors.** Be cautious when riding near parked cars. Stay a safe distance to avoid collisions.
- **Stay alert.** Don't wear earbuds or check you phone or check your Garmin



Keep Water Clean

BY NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Let's Do Our Part to Help Keep Water Clean!

New York has 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, 4,000 lakes and ponds, 2.4 million acres of wetlands and extensive aquifers. These abundant resources need our protection to remain clean. Human activities leave behind materials like pesticides, pet waste, trash and even loose soil that can wash into our waters and pollute them. Even where you don't see a stream or lake, streets, roadside ditches and underground storm sewers carry polluted runoff into the closest waterbody. The good news is that your positive actions can do much to protect New York's waters.

- **Return used motor oil for recycling**

Never pour oil onto the street or down a storm drain. It'll wash, untreated, into the nearest waterbody. Most New York service stations accept used oil. Some municipalities also collect used oil as part of a community household hazardous waste collection.

- **Use a commercial car wash**

Or wash your car on the lawn to keep dirty, soapy water from flowing into storm drains and eventually into your local streams and lakes.



- **Sweep sidewalks and driveways**

Hosing yard debris off hard surfaces just washes it into storm drains. Compost yard waste instead.

- **Fight mud**

Cover areas of bare soil with mulch, or plant grass or ground covers to keep rain from washing soil into storm drains, ditches, streams and lakes. Fine soil particles, or sediment, can suffocate fish and destroy their habitat.

- **Avoid using lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorus**

Test your lawn first to see if it needs phosphorus. Phosphorus that is not needed by turf grass is often carried by rain into nearby waterbodies where it can cause serious environmental problems. The new *Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law* severely restricts or prohibits the use of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers.

- **Leave an un-mowed buffer next to streams and lakes**

A buffer strip filters the pollutants carried by storm runoff, stops erosion of banks and helps prevent flooding downstream. A buffer of native plants also benefits wildlife and beautifies your backyard.

- **Flush responsibly**

Rather than flushing, dispose of cleansers, fluids, paint, and lawn care products at a facility. Take pharmaceuticals to special



beauty products, medicine, auto local household hazardous waste collection locations.

- **Use the trash, not the drain**

Dispose of excess fats and grease, diapers and personal hygiene products in the garbage can. These materials can clog pipes and cause raw sewage to overflow.

- **Block the buzz**



Prevent mosquitoes from breeding by eliminating standing water in old tires and clogged gutters, or use dunks containing the larvicide Bti (a bacteria that targets mosquitoes). Empty and refill kiddie pools and pet water dishes at least once a week. When sitting outside, place multiple citronella candles close by. Protect infants and toddlers with light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and by draping netting over strollers. In spring, mount bat and purple martin houses to encourage these mosquito eating machines. (Note: A chemical repellent such as DEET may be necessary where mosquito-borne diseases are likely.)

Create a Rain Garden

BY NEW YORK STATE DEC



Plant a Lush Oasis and Stop Polluted Runoff

Storm water running off rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, and streets washes pollutants into nearby streams. As if that weren't bad enough, as storm water rushes over these hard-or impervious-surfaces, it picks up speed and force, causing local flooding and erosion. Impervious surfaces also keep rain water and snowmelt from seeping into the soil and recharging groundwater aquifers.

A rain garden can change all that. Planted in a shallow depression with plants such as ferns, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, turtlehead and others that don't mind occasional "wet feet," a lush and luxuriant rain garden captures runoff from impervious areas and allows it to seep slowly into the ground. Concerned about mosquitos? Rain gardens are designed to hold standing water for less than 24 hours so that mosquitos can't breed.

The New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual, Section 9.5 has detailed information on the design, installation and maintenance of a rain garden. Make sure the plants you choose are hardy in your zone.

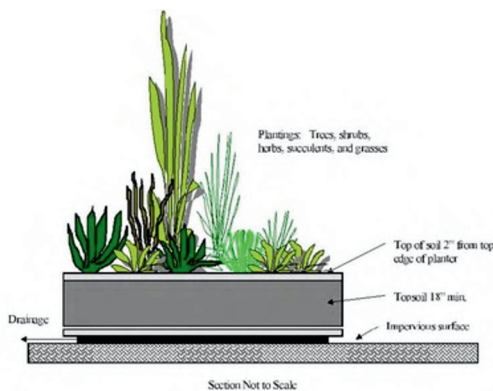


Ferns are a great choice for a more natural looking rain garden

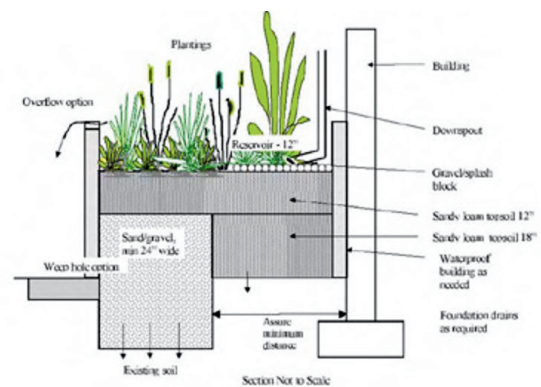
Mini Rain Gardens

For situations where you can't have a full-size rain garden, consider a mini-rain garden in a planter. As with a full-size rain garden, use the plants and soil to absorb rainwater from your downspout. Placing them on or in lawn or soil will ensure the water is absorbed into the ground, but even on pavement they will still do some good. Both versions are illustrated in the diagrams below.

Mini Rain Garden in a Planter



This type of mini rain garden can be placed on pavement or on the grass. Note: there is no down spout connected to this garden.



This type of mini rain garden is connected to a down spout and has taller walls to temporarily retain a large volume of water coming from the roof. Be sure to select plants that can stand wet or submerged conditions.

Cottage Stories

“PRIVATEERS LANDING”



“Our place is known as *Privateers’ Landing*. That was the name of the A Scow my father and friends owned and raced in the late 1930s and through the 1940s. They needed a place to dry the huge canvas sails. Campbell’s Beach (now Camp Good Days) wanted alot to rent their large cabin. And so they had our log cabin built! The waterfront is unchanged, but the 1941 log cabin that Dad and his sailing buddy, Monroe Evans had built was disassembled and replaced in 2018. I couldn’t bear to have it torn down and hauled away, so I hired Mennonites to salvage and sell it. It has been rebuilt overlooking the West side of Seneca Lake - we have visitation rights!



Once Dad married, Monroe bought what is now the nearby KLSP (Keuka Lake State Park) Manager’s house. He was forced to sell through eminent domain when the State was acquiring additional properties to add to the huge parcel acquired initially. Though devastated, he was able to stay on the lake - close to the Yacht Club. His descendants are also still on Keuka.

Wonderful roots for our now 4th generation little ones enjoying this family place.”

-Ken and Jill Lerch, 1148 Esperanza Drive, Keuka Park

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Cottage Stories

“CARROLLTON COTTAGE”



“The cottage belonged to my husband’s grandmother Nellie Carroll Woodcock. Charlie’s grandma handpainted China dishes with beautiful patterns. She taught students and exhibited her China dishes at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893.

She grew up in Geneva. Her uncle Captain Archibald Thayer was a steamboat captain on Crooked Lake but left the lake in 1887 to move to his family homestead vineyard farm in Milo (considered one of the best vineyards) that included all the shore frontage of Willow Grove. He gave Charlie’s grandma Nellie Carroll (his favorite niece) her choice of the lake lots and then left her \$1,000 in his will. As a single woman she had the cottage built for \$600! (The Thayer family of Jacob Thayer, born 1806, was one of the pioneers of Yates County.)

The Woodcock cottage was finished in 1901. Inflation has really risen the price to build a cottage - that is, if one can find an empty lot. I cry every time an older cottage is torn down - there goes our history! The uncle only gave her one lot. We are the only original family left in Willow Grove.”

-Charles & Kathleen Woodcock, 2418 Willow Grove



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STEUBEN: WWW.STEUBENCONY.ORG
607-622-3901

2024 Wahlig Scholarship Application



2024 ALEXANDER & ESTHER WAHLIG KEUKA LAKE WATERSHED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The goal of this scholarship, sponsored by the Keuka Lake Association, is to assist a graduating senior high school student who is planning to enroll in a four year program (may include a two year college with plans to transfer to a four year institution) and who is planning on pursuing a career in general environmental sciences or limnology or water quality/watershed management.

Eligible applicants include senior students graduating from high schools in the Keuka Lake Watershed, including Haverling Central School, Dundee Central School, Penn Yan Academy, Prattsburgh Central School, Hammondsport Central School or senior students whose parents are Keuka Lake Association members.

The one-time \$1000 scholarship will be awarded in one installment upon satisfactory completion of the first semester and submission of a transcript sent to the Keuka Lake Association office for review by the committee.

The selection committee is composed of five members appointed by the Keuka Lake Association and will meet in April of the student's graduating year. The committee must receive application forms by April fifteenth of the graduating year. By June first the committee will send the selected recipient(s) a letter and forward a copy to the guidance department of the appropriate school.

Students should submit an application for the scholarship to the Keuka Lake Association by April 15, 2024 by mail (PO Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527) or electronically to info@keukalakeassociation.org.

The application must include a letter of recommendation from one of the applicant's teachers and a 250 to 300 word essay describing the student's interest in his or her selected field of study and how the student plans to apply that knowledge either in a future career or for enriching his/her appreciation in the environmental sciences or water quality/watershed management.

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Kelly Family...12770 W Lake Rd
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KLAEidoscope of Keuka 2025 - Calendar Photo Contest

Keep your camera handy throughout the year, as photos are needed for all seasons.

Photos must be of Keuka Lake or its shoreline, hillsides and communities. Photos must be taken by KLA members or members of their families.

Entries must be received by March 31, 2024.

Limit 3 photos per entrant. All photos need to be horizontal to fit a calendar page. Digital photos should be taken with a 3.5 mega pixel or larger camera, at highest possible resolution. After uploading the image to your computer, save it as a .jpg file, leave it unedited, and **e-mail it to**

info@keukalakeassoc.org, send it on a CD to the KLA office at P.O. Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527, or drop it off at 142 Main St. Traditional 4x6 35mm color prints may also be submitted. You may also re-submit photos that were previously not selected.

Remember, prizes are available for the cover, back, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place photos and selected submissions receive a copy of the calendar.

Photos not selected for use in the calendar may be placed in the photo gallery on the KLA website or in the newsletter. Past entries may also be considered for use in future calendars.

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Yes, I want to support the Keuka Lake Association!

New _____ Renewal _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS 1 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS 2 _____

KEUKA ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

KEUKA PHONE _____

KLA MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

MARCH
DUES RENEWAL NOTICES MAILED

APRIL
MEMBER DUES DUE

DECEMBER
LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED. CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

Dates I wish to receive mailings at KEUKA address: From ___/___ thru ___/___ (month/day)

Would you like to receive E-Announcements and our monthly E-Newsletters? Yes/No

How would you like to receive our Quarterly Printed Newsletter? Mail/E-mail/Both

| | <i>Membership Level</i> | |
|--------|-------------------------|--|
| \$50 | Partner | |
| \$100 | Sponsor | |
| \$150 | Patron | |
| \$250 | Guardian | |
| \$500 | Champion | |
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Check # _____ (Please make checks payable to the Keuka Lake Association)

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Thank you for your support!





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Thank you for your support!



Keuka Lake Association
142 Main Street
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*Our mission is to
preserve and protect
Keuka Lake and its
natural beauty for
future generations.*

