

A Message from the President...

BY: ROB DINTRUFF

It is a sure sign of spring when leaves on the trees prevent my watch from obtaining a GPS signal. Many readers will agree that technology is simultaneously frustrating and convenient, but offers benefits that those under the age of 30 take for granted. Email, maps, weather reports and photography, immediately available on phones outweigh the frustration of adapting to the latest software update. Such frustrations aside, I was reminded of the technology benefits we enjoy as Al Locey's boat departed Hammondsport with a KLA crew supported by the Finger Lakes Institute and Yates County Soil & Water on April 22nd. This team stopped at sites on each branch of the lake assessing water clarity and taking water samples with some rather clever technology, to measure nutrient levels and the general health of the lake. This was the first of several trips to be taken this year. The KLA relies upon volunteers and likeminded organizations to do this work.

A separate project resuming soon, helps document and transmit lake health information and detect Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Volunteers perform a simple task: take five minutes out of your day once a week and snap a photo of shoreline water close to home and then upload it to a site managed by the NYS DEC. This task is meaningless if one or two people do it, but when 50-100 people participate, it can detect and report suspicious algal growth and help keep the lake safe. Imagine how slow and tedious that process would have been 30 years ago.

The KLA takes advantage of technology as we seek to grow, convey important information and work on innovative ways to preserve and protect Keuka Lake. BTW, who is that Al Locey guy mentioned above? Keep reading...



THIS ISSUE:

A Salute to Captain Al PAGE 02

Water Quality Update PAGE 04

Lake Level Update PAGE 05

2025 Fishing & Boating Regs PAGE 06 & 07

> Critter Corner PAGE 08

KLA Businesses
PAGE 13

Save the Dates
PAGE 19



The Keuka Lake Association, like any lake association in the region, cannot fulfill the promise of its mission solely through the people that govern the organization. Most certainly, KLA Board members do the heavy lifting since they are a "working board", assigned to committees that, among other things, help keep the lake clean, encourage safe boating practices, educate the community and help maintain a proper lake level. But often, our Board and officers require something more. That's where Captain Al and other volunteers enter the picture and step up.

Much like the people reading this, Alan Locey loves Keuka Lake. He has spent virtually every summer of his life on the lake and conducted tours, formally or informally, for more than 30 years. Those two qualifications and his pontoon boat make him an essential volunteer for the Association. Al is also a KLA Business Member.

Every few weeks, the KLA leans on Captain Al and his generosity, to provide his pontoon boat and four hours of his time. By 9:00 am on water sampling day, a crew assembles at Depot Hammondsport. This typically includes three people from the KLA, a team from Yates County Soil and Water along with another organization such as the Finger Lakes Institute based in Geneva. The boat is loaded with supplies and equipment needed to sample water from both one meter and thirty meters below the surface. In addition, a visual test using something known as a Secchi disk, assesses water clarity. Each branch of Keuka Lake and one central point are sampled so that water quality can be appropriately monitored.

These important tasks have been conducted from April to October every year for more than 30 years. The tests performed look at levels of nutrients and other pollutants in the water and have consistently shown something we often take for granted: Keuka Lake is among the cleanest of the Finger lakes. Al and the KLA work to keep it that way and improve it further. Testimony to that effort is our stream sampling program that looks at the quality of water entering the lake along with the efforts of the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC) that monitors septic systems.



Sampling of Keuka Lake water has been conducted from April to October every year for more than 30 years.



Alan is passionate about Keuka's water quality. The tours he gives showcase the lake's beauty and include stories, and a bit of the science behind the lake's ecosystem and what it takes to keep it so clean. When he's not hosting boat tours, he might be found snow skiing or sailing his MC Scow. He also manages a side business that repurposes whiskey barrels that are sold to individual buyers or rented out for special events in the region. But it is his commitment to preserving and protecting the lake through the task of water sampling that has endeared him to the KLA.

Volunteer opportunities with the KLA are numerous, worthwhile and quite educational. They include shoreline monitoring, water sampling in the lake and streams, assistance with office operations, management of invasive species and a host of other tasks.

Admittedly, the April lake sampling can be a bit chilly, but a bit of time on the boat in the warm summer months to collect water samples isn't a bad way to spend a morning. If you're interested, over the age of 18, and willing to help with stream or lake sampling, get in touch with our office. We'll put you on our waiting list to enjoy a special experience out on the water or in one of the many streams flowing into the lake.



Happy Cruising!



KLA Board Members and volunteers using the Kemmmerer to sample water at various depths on our April 22nd open water voyage.



Captain Al Locey doing what he loves!

Water Quality Update DR. BOB LAMBERT, WATER QUALITY CHAIR

The KLA has several important projects for 2025 aimed at understanding and improving our beautiful lake. Here are the major ones:

- 1.Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) shoreline monitoring volunteer program. In this program, volunteers monitor a section (eg, 100 yards) of Keuka shoreline, and report to the NYS DEC by cellphone or computer app weekly. Training for this began in late May, but it is recorded and can be viewed any time. Time commitment is modest, roughly 10 15 minutes per week from June through October as your availability allows. We are still looking for more volunteers for this program!
- 2. We are ramping up our **stream monitoring** program this year, as it's increasingly clear that these inputs to our lake are the critical drivers for excess nutrients, microbes and other pollutants. Stream sampling will be done second Tuesday mornings of each month, from June to October. We work in concert with the Yates County Soil and Water (YCSW) group and will be monitoring 8 or 9 streams this year. Help with any (or all!) of these sampling dates would be much appreciated. In the past, this work has taken about 2-3 hours.
- 3. We are also continuing our **open water testing** program, which has been ongoing for over 30 years now. (We're excited to review all this data at our annual meeting this July). Our first collecting day was April 22: a little brisk, a bit windy, slightly overcast, but lots of fun.
- 4. One of the **invasive species** that has affected our lake is the water chestnut. It's especially problematic at the outlet in Penn Yan. A mechanical harvester is used to control this weed, but we also need to do actual weed pulls every summer in the areas the harvester cannot get to. There will be 2 pulls this year, one in July and and another in August. These half day affairs involve kayaks (bring your own or we provide), on-site training and support, drinks and snacks, and the opportunity to interact with other like-minded organizations around our lake. For this event, the more volunteers the better. Come join us!

As you can see, there's a lot to do and we need your help! It's only through our volunteers that we can accomplish our mission: to preserve and protect this precious resource.

We encourage everyone who loves Keuka Lake to consider joining one of our initiatives or even suggesting new ones where you see a need. Whether you have an hour to spare or a morning to dedicate, your time and effort are invaluable in helping us maintain the health and beauty of our watershed. Together, we can ensure that future generations can enjoy the same pristine waters, diverse wildlife, and peaceful surroundings that we cherish today. Let's work hand in hand to keep Keuka Lake as vibrant and thriving as ever!



Lake Level Update

Other than being about 4inches above the upper guide for a few days in early May, the lake level has been maintained within the objectives for the past several months. KLOC and the PYWP gate operators have done a good job, even with the high levelsof rain this Spring.

The 2025 water temperature continues to track several degrees colder than historic values. We continue to believe that the values reported and charted on our website are probably 7-9 degrees colder than reality. However, our efforts to determine the root cause continue to be unsuccessful. The temperature sensing equipment calibration has been checked twice and communication between the equipment, our website and what is posted is okay. Our latest theory is that the translation of the average to degrees by our data logger was the culprit, but the latest information indicates that is probably not the issue. Detective work continues, as well as, exploring other data sources. Thank you for your patience as we continue to pursue a resolution. Please also recognize that the water temperature can vary significantly depending on depth, currents, wind, and exactly where you are.

BRIANNA'S LAW IS IN EFFECT: IN 2025, ALL MOTOR BOAT OPERATORS, REGARDLESS OF AGE, NEED A BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE.

Saunders Finger Lakes Museum is hosting in-person classes on select Sundays from March to September. Please see their website to sign up!

The Finger Lakes Boat Museum

Sunday, June 15 Saturday, July 12 Sunday, August 3

Pre-registration is required. Participants must register with both Finger Lakes Boating Museum and NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The price for Museum Members is \$30; the non-member price is \$35. Visit www.flbm.org/boating-safety, call 607-569-2222, or email info@flbm.org to register.

Other approved courses can be found by visiting the <u>NYS Parks and Recreation Dept: https://parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx</u>

You can get replacement cards at: ilostmycard.com



2025 Fishing Regulations

Keuka Lake Fishing Regulations (DEC Region 8) April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Persons 16 years old and older are required to have a fishing license, except on the "Free Fishing Days": June 28th-29th 2025, September 27th 2025, November 11th 2025, February 14th-15th

2026 Fishing licenses are now available instantly on-line and on smart phones via https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/ or by calling 1-866-933-2257

(For a complete listing of NYS Laws and Regulations, please refer to the "New York Freshwater Fishing 2023-24 Official Regulations Guide": http://www.eregulations.com/newyork/fishing/ or the Central NY Fishing Hotline (607) 753-1551

Sign up for email updates from the DEC at www.dec.ny.gov & Get the Official NYS Fishing App at iTunes and Google Play

		-	
	FINGER LAKES SPE	CIFIC REGULATIONS	
SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MIN LENGTH
Lake trout, Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Landlocked Salmon	All Year	5 Fish in combination (max of 1 Rainbow Trout or 3 Landlocked Salmon)	
(Largemouth and Smallmouth)	June 15 – March 15 *	5	12"
(* Special Season – March 16 thro	ougn June 14, catch and	release fishing is allowed	– Artificiai lures only)
Northern Pike	May 1- March 15	5	22"
Walleye	May 1- March 15	3	18"
	STATEWIDE F	REGULATIONS	
Pickerel	May 1 - March 15	5	15" 10"
Crappie	All Year	25	any size
Yellow Perch	All Year	50	any size
Sunfish - Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast	All Year	25	
Smelt Dip Netting (dip net 14" dia.)	All Year	8 Quarts	Hours - Anytime

Ice Fishing

Keuka Lake fishing regulations apply to take any species from November 15th through April 30th. 7 ice fishing lines may be used. *Ice Fishing Line* means any device that uses a hook and line to fish through the ice, including but not limited to hand line, historical cross style tip-ups, tip downs, etc.

Keuka Lake Tributaries - From the Lake upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish:

Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout April 1st – December 31st 3 in combination 15"
Brown Trout, Landlocked Salmon (max 1 Rainbow)

Keuka Lake Outlet - From first barrier (Railroad trestle bridge in Dresden) upstream to Keuka Lake:

(Seneca Lake rules apply in the Keuka Outlet downstream of railroad trestle bridge in Dresden)

Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow) All Year 5 Any Size

(no more than 2 longer than 12")

(LL Salmon, Lake Trout) Statewide Angling Regulations Apply - Salmon 15", LT 21", April 1st- Oct. 15th, limit of 3

PLEASE NOTE: A specific list of baitfish that may be purchased has been established by the DEC. (Purchase baitfish only from a dealer selling certified disease-free bait)

NYS Invasive Species Law requires all boats to be clean, drained and dried prior to launching or leaving the lake!



2025 Boating Regulations

Boating Regulations for Keuka Lake 2025

Revised & Updated May 1, 2025

Published as a courtesy by the Keuka Lake Association and DOES NOT supersede NYS Law See https://www.nxtbook.com/newyorkstateparks/nysparks/ny_boatersguide_24/ for latest edition of the NYS Boaters Guide.

Powerboat Operation - New Requirements under Brianna's Law: Operators must be at least 10 years old. All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate beginning January 1, 2025. New York State approved courses can be found at: https://parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx. Certificates must be in the operator's possession (on the boat).

Personal Watercraft: Operators must be at least 14 years old. Operators of all ages are required to have passed one of the NYS approved safe boating courses. Certificates must be in the operator's possession. Everyone is required to wear a life jacket

Maximum Speed and Noise Limits:

- 5 mph within 200 ft of shore, docks, floats or anchored boats (except when pulling up or dropping off)
- 45 mph during daylight hours, 25 mph after sunset until sunrise **and times of reduced visibility**Maximum 90 decibels stationary, 75 decibels underway (mufflers must remain in place) In times of high
- or low water, be alert to additional restrictions announced by the Sheriffs Organized events that desire
- exceptions to NYS laws must apply for a Marine Regatta permit, see https://www.parks.ny.gov/documents/recreation/boating/RegattaPermitApplication.pdf

Bow Riding is not permitted; passengers must be seated within the vessel, not on the gunwale, motor hatch or stern while underway.

Children under 12 on board a vessel under 65 feet in length must wear an appropriately sized Type I, II or III USCG Approved life jacket while boat is underway. (Type III & V inflatable Life Jackets not approved under 16)

Water Skiing:

- Tow boat must have an observer at least ten years of age, in addition to the operator
- Skier must wear an approved personal flotation device designed for water sports not an inflatable

Water Skiing is prohibited between sunset and sunrise and times of reduced visibility.

Diver Down Regulation: All boats must stay 100 feet from "diver down" flags, these are the Alpha Flag (blue pennant with white stripe at base) and the Diver Flag (red rectangle with white diagonal stripe).

Boating Equipment	Motor Boat	PWC	Manually powered vessels and Sailboats under 23 feet
Life leekste		0	
Life Jackets	One per person	One per person	One per person (1) (including paddle craft)
Throw able Device	Type IV(2)	Not Required	Type IV(2)
Fire Extinguisher(s) – B1	All	Federal Rules Require	Not Required
Visual Distress Signals	See Boaters Guide, p. 23		
Nighttime: 3 Red Flares or USCG	16 ft & up	Not Required(3)	Sailboats from Sunset to Sunrise
approved LED Light*		, , ,	(not required on manually powered
Daytime: Distress Flag	Day only	Required	vessels)
Anchor	All	Not Required	Not Required
Horn/Bell/Whistle –Mechanical	39 ft & over	Not Required	Not Required
Whistle or Horn – Mouth	Under 39 ft	All	Not Required(whistle req'd on paddle craft)
Navigation Lights	Bow & Stern	Not Required(3)	White Lantern(4)

^{*}The Sirius Signal SOS distress light is approved by the US Coast Guard and NYS in place of flares.

Notes regarding 'Not Required' items

- 1. Paddle Craft include canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards and pedal boats.
- 2. All boats 16 ft & longer (except canoes and kayaks) require a buoyancy cushion or other throw able device.
- 3. PWC operation is not permitted from sunset to sunrise and during times of reduced visibility.
- 4. Sailboats under power must exhibit navigation lights required of a motorboat.

THE COLD-WATER LAW requires all occupants of a vessel 21' or less to wear a Life Jacket from Nov. 1 to May 1 while underway - if the vessel is not tied to the dock, it is "underway".

PLEASE BE AWARE OF EXPIRATION DATES ON FLARES AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Additional Suggested Equipment: First Aid Kit, Bailer, Boat Hook, Paddle, Compass, Marine Radio, Extra Dock Lines, **Drinking Water**





KEUKA'S TURTLES

By: David Decalesta

The Keuka Lake watershed (lake and hillsides feeding lake with streams) includes five species of turtles. Cold-blooded, like all reptiles, turtles cannot regulate their body heat, so are active during spring, summer and fall when temperatures allow them to move about. All hibernate in winter, usually in the mud/muck of lake, pond and stream bottoms. Their heart rates slow to almost nothing, and they absorb oxygen from the water through their skins. All except one (spiny smooth-shell turtle) have bony shells. The upper shell is called the carapace and is formed of bony plates (scutes) that are flattened and widened ribs. Each scute has concentric rings laid down every year: counting the rings gives an approximation of the turtle's age. The bottom shell, called the plastron, is also formed of individual plates. They are omnivorous, meaning they eat vegetation, insects, small mammals and birds, salamanders, crayfish, snakes, and carrion. Some can deliver a dangerous (to humans) bite if you pick them up. None bite swimmers. All have a dull brown/black/olive carapace (camouflage). All lay eggs in sandy areas and/or under rotting woody vegetation.

The **snapping turtle**, with a shell 8-14 inches long is one of the largest turtles. They live in slow-moving areas of ponds, streams, and lakes, lying on the bottom waiting for prey, including fish and small ducklings. Their carapace is bony and ridged; the plastron is so small they can't draw their head, legs, or tail inside. Their powerful jaws can bite off a finger - handle with caution and only by holding them well away from your body by the tail.



The **spiny soft-shell** is the only one without a rigid carapace and plastron. Described as a pancake with a head and legs, soft-shells live in calm lakes and ponds and often sun themselves on logs and concrete boat slips. At a distance, they look like flattened rocks. Largest turtle, reaching a carapace length of 25 inches. Mostly eat insects, crayfish. Cannot be picked up safely, have a very long neck and can reach behind if your pick up by their tail and deliver a painful bite.



The **eastern painted turtle** is the most common - the one you see in groups sunning on logs at the edges of lakes and ponds. Relatively small at 7-9 inches in length, they are the prettiest with red and yellow stripes on the head and a plastron with bright orange-red patterns - like they were "painted." They eat snails, slugs, crayfish, algae, and carrion.



The **eastern wood turtle** has a high, knobby carapace about 10 inches long and is a woodland traveler, often found in woods as they move from one body of water to another. So named because the pattern of rings on their scutes looks like wood. The carapace is yellow with black blotches on each scute. They eat mushrooms, fruits, algae, snails, slugs, and worms, often stomping on the ground to bring up the worms.



The **eastern box turtle** is the smallest at 7-9 inches. So named because they can tuck their head, legs, and tail inside their shell which is hinged to form an impenetrable "box". They have brightly colored lines of dots on the carapace/legs & head. Like the wood turtle, box turtles are terrestrial and move through the forest on their travels between bodies of water. They eat snails, slugs, salamanders, fruits and mushrooms. More southern than the others, they are rarely seen in Keuka's watershed.





All turtles move from one body of water to the next, often crossing roads. If you see one crossing a road and you can stop safely on the side, get out and shoo the turtle into the woods/lake. They often are hit by cars. All are protected by law: it's illegal to keep them as pets. Some, including the spiny, box and wood turtle are fairly rare.

FEATURED: THE SPINY SOFTSHELL (Apalone spinifera)

Courtesy of: Debbie Lyon, Saunders Finger Lakes Museum



Keuka's Spiny Softshells sunning at Saunders!

While this unique turtle may be found in a variety of fresh water habitats across the eastern states, its preferred habitat includes wetland environments that have vegetated, soft bottoms, as it spends much of its time submerged and buried there. Keuka Lake wetlands are specifically protected by the New York DEC as a habitat for these turtles, as prime habitat for nesting and growth of this species is limited in this region. We are so fortunate to have this unique and wonderful species in our very own lake!

The body of this species is flattened with spiny projections that project out from the edge of the upper carapace. Spiny softshell turtles have unique nostrils that resemble a pig's snout. Their necks are longer than that of other turtle species allowing them to capture food at greater distances. This turtle spends most of its life in the water, and so has fully webbed feet to help it swim.

The spiny softshell is one of the largest turtle species in North America growing up to 19 inches long. In colder regions of its habitat range, the turtle will bury itself in mud and hibernate for nearly half the year. In the wild, they may live to be 50 years old.

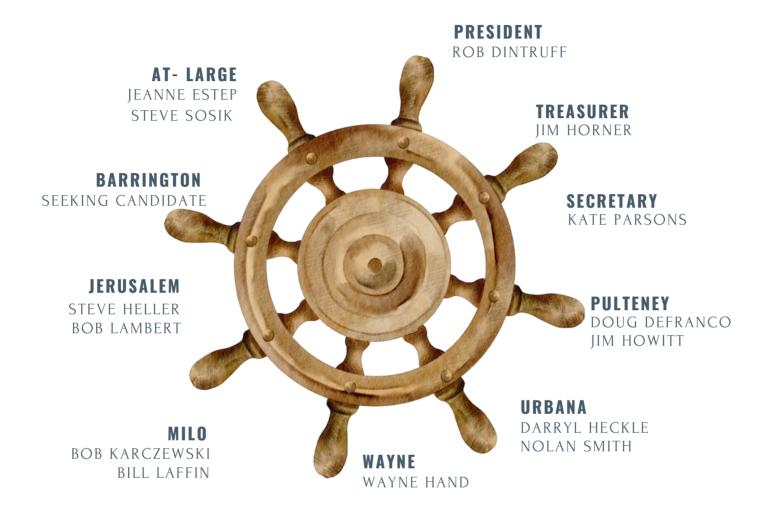


A tiny baby snapping turtle photographed last September



A close up of the Spiny Softshell





The KLA is always looking for individuals who share our passion for protecting the lake! Email resumes to info@keukalakeassociation.org.

THE KLA OFFICE IS LOCATED AT: 2466 NY-54A, SUITE 207, PENN YAN, NY

Open hours fluctuate, so please make arrangments ahead of time if you'd like to stop by!





KLA MEMBER APPLICATION

Yes, I want to support the Keuka Lake Association!

	New_	Renewal
	NAME(S)	
	MAILING ADDRESS	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP	
	PHONE NUMBER	
	E-MAIL ADDRESS 1	
	E-MAIL ADDRESS 2	
	SECONDARY ADDRESS	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP	
	KEUKA PHONE	
Dates I w	rish to receive mailings at KEUKA ac	ldress: From/ thru/ (month/day
Would yo	ou like to receive E-Announcement	s and our monthly E-Newsletters? Yes/No
How wo	uld you like to receive our Quarterly	Printed Newsletter? Mail/E-mail/Both
	Membership Level	
\$50	Partner	KLA MEMBERSHIP PROCESS
\$100	Sponsor or Business	RENEWAL NOTICES MAILED
\$150	Patron	APRIL
\$250	Guardian	MEMBER DUES DUE
\$500	Champion	LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED
\$1000	Premier	WITO HAVE NOT KENEWED
Chec	ck #(Please make che	cks payable to the Keuka Lake Association)
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Bully Hill Restaurant Burgers & Beer of Corning Crooked Lake Mercantile Keuka Restaurant Lakeside Country Club Lakeside Restaurant & Tavern Oak Hill Bulk Foods Morgan's Grocery Seneca Farms Service Station FLX The Switzerland Inn Wise Guys of Hammondsport

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Eastview Veterinary Clinic

WINE & SPIRITS

SDS Enterprises

WINERIES/VINEYARDS

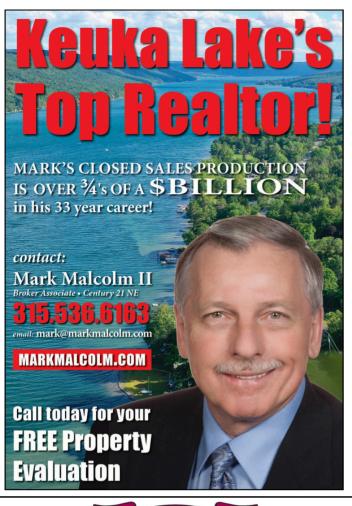
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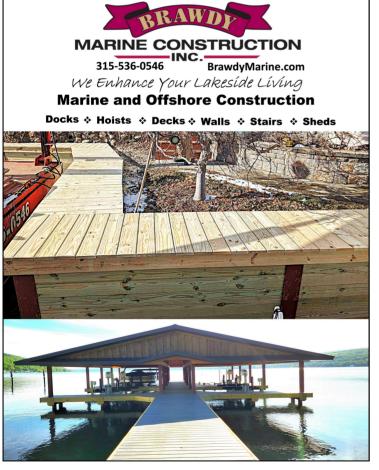
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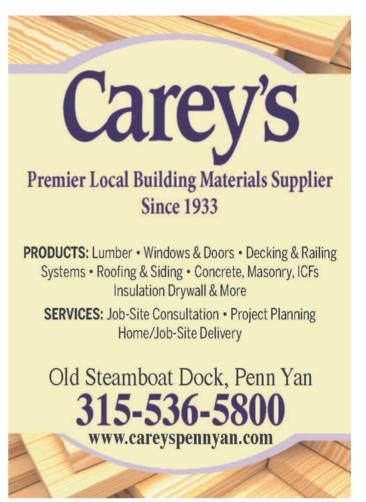
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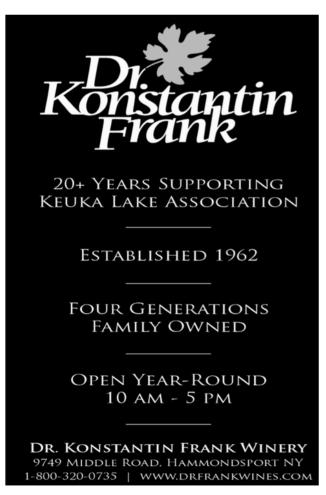


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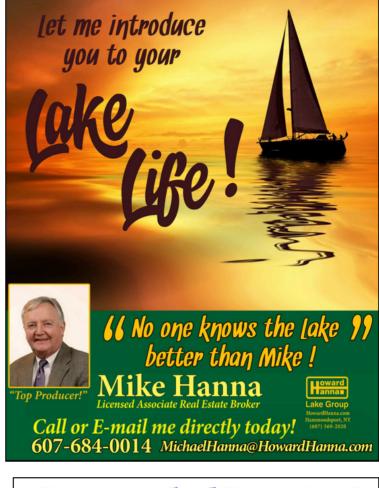














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We can't wait to show you our new Keuka Lake finds!

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July 14th

Golf Tournament at Lakeside Country Club

July 19th

KLA Annual Meeting at Keuka College

August 13th

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Keuka Springs



The advertising section of the KLA newsletter is provided as a service to KLA business members. The ads are restricted to 1/4 page, to fit into a 3.75 x 4.75 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, color ad in a JPG format only. The deadline for the Fall 2025 issue is August 15th 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.





Keuka Lake Association 2466 NY-54A, Suite 207 PO Box 35 Penn Yan, NY 14527

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE

PAID

Seneca Falls, NY Permit No. 14

Our mission is to preserve and protect Kenka Lake and its natural beauty for future generations.

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO

TO HELP PRESERVE & PROTECT KEUKA LAKE

Leave your grass a little longer > 3"

Fewer mowings promotes a healthier lawn with deeper roots, less watering

Keep pesticides away from the lake

Pesticides can upset natural balance of ecosystem in watershed

Utilize fertilizer according to manufacturer instructions

Prevents nitrogen and phosphorous from entering watershed

Properly maintain your septic system – inspect and pump, per the law Prevents harmful bacteria from entering watershed

Dispose of chemicals properly – never dump in the lake or septic Chemicals can harm animal and plant life in watershed

Landscape using porous surfaces and rain gardensIncreased use helps filter pollutants and prevents erosion of hillsides

Use native plants in your gardeningNative plants naturally flourish in our region and act as filters to runoff

Dispose of pet waste properly

Prevents harmful bacteria from entering watershed

Become a volunteer to monitor and report harmful algal blooms
Helps provide valuable data to prevent future outbreaks

Join or share the Keuka Lake Association!

Support the organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Keuka Lake for future generations

TAKE THE LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING PLEDGE AND PICK UP A LAWN MEDALLION AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING!



