

FALL 2023

LISTEN TO THE LAKE...

Official Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Association

A Message from the President...

BY STEVE BRIGHAM

As summer winds down, I hope this newsletter finds you, your family and friends having enjoyed this beautiful season to the fullest.

Our volunteers have been busy the past few months preserving and protecting our greatest asset, Keuka Lake. Our team conducted water sampling each month, oversaw the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) efforts, and developed the first-ever Keuka Lake survey to aide in mapping invasive species locales.

We enjoyed seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting in July at Keuka College. The impressive panel of speakers shared their knowledge of the current ecology of our region. We are grateful to have such highly committed partners. Speaking of partners, I'd like to recognize two dedicated individuals that have been instrumental to our mission at the KLA. Sheriff Spike, of Yates County, and Margo McTaggart, our Administrative Assistant for the past 22 years, are both retiring this year. We wish them the best and thank them for their dedication.

Looking forward, we are excited for opportunities to collaborate and join resources with our Finger Lakes partners who love this region as much as we do. There are so many amazing organizations doing great work every day.

Last but most definitely not least, I would also like to thank all of you, our members. Without your commitment to our mission, none of what we do is possible. We ask that you spread the word to your neighbors and friends and encourage them to join us in our mission to Protect and Preserve Keuka Lake.

Steve

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Lake Level Update

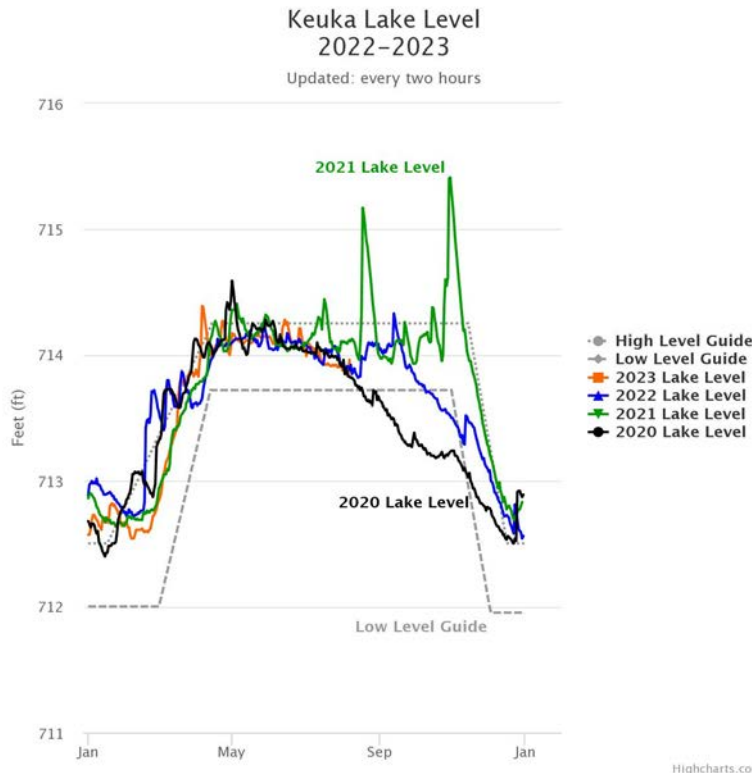
BY WAYNE HAND, LAKE LEVEL COMMITTEE CHAIR



The chart below shows the "actual daily lake level in feet above sea level" for the past 4 years vs. the objectives, which is also available on the Lake Level page of the KLA website.

The "dashed" lines define the level objectives range throughout the year, which the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC) attempts to stay within. These objectives have been basically unchanged for the past 19 years. The red line shows the level thus far this year, and as can be seen, KLOC has done a good job in maintaining the level within the objectives range. Mother nature has also been kind to us this year with no extreme rain events, like what was experienced in August and October of 2021, where the resulting lake level impact is shown with the green line. When several inches of rain are experienced throughout the watershed, the lake level can rise over a foot within a few hours, and there is very little that anyone can do to prevent it from resulting. With all gates open, it can then take multiple weeks to get down to normal levels.

What also can happen are drought conditions, like what was experienced in 2020 (the black line) and 2022 (the blue line), where lack of rain in late summer and fall resulted in the lake level falling below the objectives range, creating issues for boaters and others. Since a minimum amount of outflow must be maintained in the outlet to provide appropriate dilution for the Penn Yan waste treatment plant, there is very little that anyone can do to prevent the resulting lower than desired lake levels. The only act which can aid reducing these draught produced lower levels in summer and fall is to maintain the level in the upper area of the objectives range, ... just in case.



Let's hope that for the balance of this year, mother nature doesn't repeat what happened in 2021, with resulting flooding. However, history has shown that these extreme rain events do happen periodically, and they will happen again. Please be prepared to adjust your shoreline assets when it does happen. To a lesser degree, let's also hope that another 2020 like drought does not occur over the next few months, or boaters will certainly have some issues.





Water Quality

BY MIKE GOW, WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

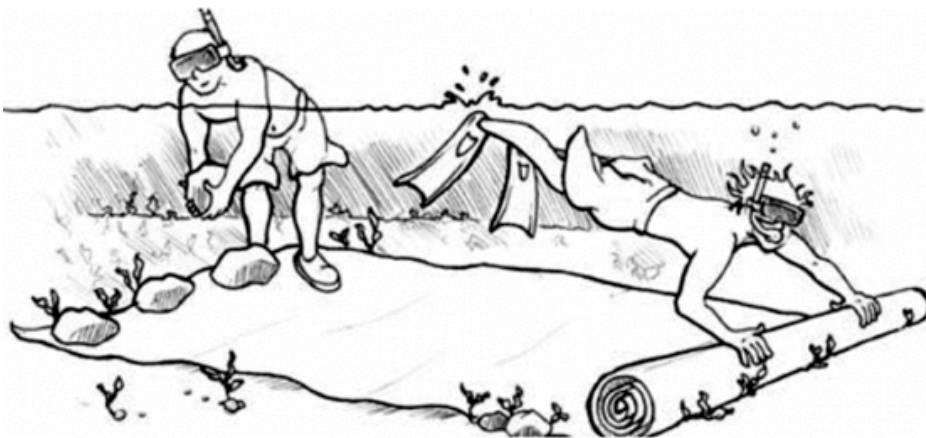
THE KLA HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS AND QUERIES FROM MEMBERS REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF ABUNDANT PLANT GROWTH NEAR LAKE PROPERTIES...AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL ISSUE OF THIS GROWTH IMPEDING SWIMMING AND MOTOR BOAT OPERATION. THE KLA, IN AFFILIATION WITH THE CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, IS IN THE PROCESS AND PERFORMING A WHOLE LAKE SURVEY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND, DOCUMENT AND ANALYZE WHAT IS IN OUR LAKE...PRIMARILY FOCUSING ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING INFO REGARDING THIS SURVEY.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED, THAT RAKING THIS AQUATIC GROWTH (NEAR YOUR DOCKS OR SWIMMING AREAS) IS ULTIMATELY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WHEN YOU RAKE THESE PLANTS YOU WILL FRAGMENT THE PLANTS, DISPERSE SEEDS AND MAY RESULT IN EVEN MORE PLANT GROWTH LATER IN THE SEASON OR THE FOLLOWING SPRING. CONSEQUENTLY, RAKING IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR THE CONTROL OF AQUATIC PLANTS.

HOWEVER, BENTHIC MATS ARE ONE OPTION TO CONSIDER IN COMBATING THIS PROBLEM.

MUCH OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED BELOW HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE NYS DEC WEBSITE...AND WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT IT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BENTHIC MATS.

A BENTHIC MAT (ALSO KNOWN AS A BENTHIC BARRIER/WEED MAT/BOTTOM SCREEN) IS A MAT THAT IS INSTALLED AT THE BOTTOM OF A BODY OF WATER TO PREVENT OR INHIBIT THE GROWTH OF AQUATIC PLANTS. IT CONSISTS OF A DARK FABRIC OR MATERIAL THAT BLOCKS SUNLIGHT AND IS HELD AGAINST THE BOTTOM BY WEIGHTS.



~~~~~  
MATS SHOULD BE INSTALLED WHEN PLANT GROWTH IS LOW...IN EARLY SPRING OR IN LATE SUMMER.



(WATER QUALITY CONT...)

BENTHIC BARRIERS ARE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN USED IN SMALL AREAS SUCH AS BETWEEN DOCKS OR WHEN A NEW POPULATION IS FOUND. THEY CAN BE MADE AND INSTALLED BY PROFESSIONALS OR HOMEMADE (AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO BENTHIC BARRIERS. COMMERCIAL BENTHIC BARRIERS ARE MADE OF PLASTIC, FIBERGLASS, NYLON, OR OTHER NON-TOXIC MATERIALS. HOMEMADE BARRIERS CAN BE OPAQUE GARDEN TARPS WITH PVC PIPE FRAMES CONSTRUCTED TO HOLD THEM IN PLACE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR OVERALL BENEFITS ARE OFTEN COUNTERACTED BY THE DIFFICULTY IN INSTALLATION, DIFFICULT MAINTENANCE, AND THE HIGH COST. BENTHIC MATS NEED TO BE ANCHORED SECURELY SO THEY ARE NOT A HAZARD. ZEBRA MUSSELS CAN COLONIZE THE MATS AND SEDIMENT BUILDS UP MEANING THEY MUST BE REMOVED AT THE END OF EACH SEASON.

THE DEC HAS RELEASED ITS GENERAL PERMIT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES. THE BIGGEST CHANGE HAS TO DO WITH THE USE OF BENTHIC BARRIERS (ALSO KNOWN AS SEAWEED MATS OR LAKE BOTTOM BLANKETS BY THEIR VENDORS.) BENTHIC BARRIERS ARE AUTHORIZED ONLY FOR ERADICATING NEW INFESTATIONS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS. MATS MAY NOT BE INSTALLED OVER ACTIVE SPAWNING BEDS, OR BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND JUNE 30 UNLESS AREA IS CONFIRMED BY DEC TO NOT INCLUDE ACTIVE SPAWNING BEDS. BENTHIC MATS MUST BE LIMITED TO A ONE-ACRE AREA.



## Symptoms & Treatment of Hypothermia

### *Mild Hypothermia*

Victim is: shivering but coherent  
You should: Get victim into dry clothes; give warm, sweet drinks (no alcohol or caffeine)

### *Moderate Hypothermia*

Victim is: rational or irrational and losing coordination. Shivering may stop or slow.  
You should: GENTLY lay victim on their back; Do not move arms or legs as cold blood suddenly moving from extremities to the core can cause cardiac arrest; do not give food or drinks; remove wet clothes and apply dry cover to victim.  
Call for help immediately!

### *Severe Hypothermia*

Victim is: semi-conscious, unconscious or may resist help.  
You should: follow the same steps as for moderate hypothermia.

### *Victim Appears Dead*

If there is no breathing or pulse, handle victim as severe hypothermia. Check for pulse or breathing for 2 minutes. If any trace is detected, DO NOT GIVE CPR as it can cause cardiac arrest. If pulse and breathing are totally absent, CPR should be started. Get medical help immediately!

# Cold-Water Boating

Tips for off-season boating and surviving cold-water immersion  
BY STEVE HICKS, NAV & REC COMMITTEE CHAIR



## How to Stay Safe

### Wear your PFD



Remember, it floats, you don't!

In New York, it is the law that you must wear your PFD on a boat under 21 feet in length from November 1- May 1.

### Know Before You Go

Check the weather forecast and the water temperature before going out. Be prepared for sudden changes.

### Wear the Proper Clothing

Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Consider a fleece-lined wetsuit or a full dry-suit. Layers that would keep us warm on land are useless on the water, unless worn inside a completely waterproof shell.

### Carry Safety Gear

Consider carrying a bailer or water pump, a VHF radio, spare dry clothes and a boat horn. Attach a whistle to your PFD.

### File a Float Plan

Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

### Be Aware

Watch for changes in water and weather conditions. Know your limits.

## What Can Happen During Cold Water Immersion?

### Cold Shock

-Powerful gasping and water inhalation that can cause drowning or unconsciousness in minutes  
-Cardiac Arrest- exposure of the head and neck to cold water causes a sudden spike in heart rate and blood pressure  
-Hyperventilation – uncontrolled rapid breathing that may cause unconsciousness.

### Swimming Failure

Hands, arms and legs become numb and useless within a few minutes of cold-water immersion. You are unable to swim, climb out of the water, or even hold on to a floating object. Without a PFD you can drown quickly in cold water.

### Hypothermia

Hypothermia develops when your core body temperature drops below 95° F. It is a life-threatening condition.



## What to do if you are immersed in cold water

Try to get back in or on your boat immediately.

If you are alone and floating in the water, fold your arms and cross your legs in H.E.L.P (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) until help arrives. Remember that lots of movement will cause you to lose body heat faster.



If 2 or more people are in the water, put your arms around one another, stay still and close together in the Huddle Position to hold in body heat.



Only swim if safety is close by!

For additional information on safe boating, please visit:

[www.wearitnewyork.com](http://www.wearitnewyork.com)

[www.AmericanCanoe.org](http://www.AmericanCanoe.org) [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

[www.coldwaterbootcamp.com](http://www.coldwaterbootcamp.com)

[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

[www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org) [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)

[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

[www.ussar.org/survival\\_sea.htm](http://www.ussar.org/survival_sea.htm)

### DID YOU KNOW?



Cold water (less than 68°F) cools the body 4 times faster than air at the same temperature. Swimming or movement while in the water can double that rate of heat loss



Marine Services Bureau  
625 Broadway, Albany NY 12207





# SUMMER REFLECTION

Ian Grady and Elle Harrison

---

Ian and Elle took on the challenge of surveying the entire littoral zone of the lake for aquatic invasive species. In total, they kayaked over 140 miles and surveyed 250 points! Here is their take on the summer:

## Q: What did you enjoy most about the summer?

Ian: I enjoyed spending the majority of the days working outdoors instead of in an office. I also was able to work with great people and do a job I enjoyed

Elle: I enjoyed working in such a fun and positive environment! We were so lucky to be able to spend all summer on Keuka Lake.

## Q: What is one thing you learned?

Ian: It was helpful to me to get more experience with collecting data that was not in a controlled environment like a classroom. I also learned a lot about involving citizens and lake-goers in what we were doing and planning events for them.

Elle: It was so interesting to learn more about Keuka Lake and its watershed from a scientific perspective, not just through the eyes of a resident. I learned so much about the lake's water quality and all the factors that affect it.



# Welcome

## New KLA members!

Jeff & Julie Amsden--12056 W. Lake Rd  
Chris & Patti Baechler--4763 W. Bluff Drive  
Mark & Jackie Barden--8928 Boyd Hill Rd  
Danielle Barrett & Neil Germain--957 E Lake Rd  
Bob & Suzanne Bowdy--14961 Keuka Village Rd  
Mike & Lisa Burns--12090 W Lake Rd  
Tom Cervoni--826 E Lake Rd  
Kris & Raymond Colonna--4870 E Bluff Dr  
Jean & John Conway--8981 E Bluff Dr  
Bruce Flaherty & Tracey Cranston--7067 E Bluff Dr  
Beth & Matthew Dann--13 E Market St  
Gregory & Sara DeSmith--11734 E Lake Rd  
Carren & Robert Douenias--11830 E Lake Rd  
Steven & Linda Forrest--739 E Lake Rd  
Linda & Steven Fowler--8375 E Bluff Drive  
Vicky Fredlund-Feathers--10906 E Lake Rd  
Diane Gardner & Michael Reiss--6664 W Bluff Dr  
Janet Gibbons--8195 E Bluff Dr  
Jacqui & Tom Gilmore--10463 E Lake Rd  
Steve & Kathleen Good--417 E Lake Rd  
Joseph & Carol Gouveia--1057 E Lake Rd  
James Gublo--850 E Lake Rd  
Kevin & Abigail Hoffman--557 E Lake Rd  
William Hopper--759 W Bluff Dr  
Kip & Julie Jugle--7338 W Bluff Dr

Matthew Keesan--2957 W Bluff Dr  
James Kerby--2559 State Route 54A  
Bill & Laura Koenig--370 Rt 54 E Lake Rd  
Todd & Violetta Koneski--7821 E Bluff Dr  
William & Jane Kufra--1008 E Lake Rd  
Robert & Linda Locke--9535 Crystal Beach Rd  
Sean & Megan Lucey--12805 E Bluff Dr  
Xavier Lafosse--770 East Lake Rd  
William Mandeville--9474 W Lake Rd  
Brian & Susan McKinnon--693 Beechnut Rd  
Maggie & Eric Miller--10493 E Lake Rd  
Keith Mulvihill--11091 E Lake Rd  
Rick & Connie Naugle--14244 Keuka Village Rd  
Jeffrey Peddigree--12348 E Lake Rd  
Les Reimsnyder III--14269 Keuka Village Rd  
Rothfuss Family--632 E Lake Rd  
John & Michele Rundell--10359 E Lake Rd  
Ron & Jody Seger--14149 Keuka Village Rd  
Gary & Roseandrea Seivert--92 Rt 54 East Lake Rd  
Mark Cuddy & Christina Selian--14663 W Lake Rd  
Richard & JoAnn Shore--6327 E Bluff Dr  
Julie & Donald Steinbacher--3283 W Lake Rd  
Doreen & Dan Stutzman--5443 W Bluff Dr  
Jim Wegelin--10364 W Lake Rd  
Karin Schlosser & Heinz Weissenbuehler--  
10049 E Lake Rd



Grove Engineering/William J.U. Grove, P.E.--Naples, NY

Fingle1/Rory Long--Penn Yan, NY



## Critter Corner

BY DAVID DECALESTA



### 'Possum FAQs

When we were kids growing up, we considered 'possums (Virginia opossums, to be correct) as little more than disgusting, oversized rats (about the same size as your average cat) with their long pointy noses, bare scaly tails, thin disheveled greasy coats, and furtive rat-like scurrings across roads at night (they're nocturnal, rarely venturing from hiding places during daylight hours)..

They didn't always live 'up north' as the winters were too cold, snowy, and long. They don't hibernate, and their ears don't have enough fur for protection from cold temperatures-they can suffer from frostbite and lose of parts of their ears. Climate change resulting in warmer winters, and increasing urbanization of the countryside provided possums with food in winter they otherwise could not find in deep snow when temperatures fall below freezing:. 'possums can't store fat in the fall to tide them over in winter like raccoons and other northern mammals and may freeze to death. They will gobble up dog and cat food left outside which provide them with survival food. Research indicated that 'possums survive winter by living near humans and not in the forest: there were warm places (sheds, basements, woodpiles, and attics) to hide from the cold.

'Possums are opportunistic eaters (biologists call them 'omnivores' meaning they will eat anything). One of my graduate students in Oregon studying 'possums discovered that the top two 'possum food items were; 1) plastic bags; and 2) slugs.

Possums raided our tomato gardens, as identified by their distinctive tooth marks in half-eaten tomatoes-we learned to prevent such foraging by draping bird netting over the plants (worked well against deer and raccoons as well).

*(continued on next page...)*





(‘Possum FAQs cont.)

‘Possums are immune to bee and scorpion stings and venom from poisonous snakes. They are resistant to rabies and don’t seem to catch Lyme disease, perhaps because they constantly groom their fur to find and remove embedded ticks. Unfortunately, their biological adaptations against mortality do not include escaping larger predators. When cornered they fake death, collapsing into a catatonic state from which it takes hours to awaken, during which time they will be eaten. This maladaptation may explain their short life-span: about 2-3 years.

‘Possums combat their high mortality rate with high fertility rates: litters average about 15 joeys (baby ‘possums). ‘Possums are the only North American marsupials (they carry their tiny newborn in abdominal pouches like kangaroos until weaned).

So, give the lowly ‘possum grudging respect: they remove slugs and other bugs that attack our gardens, they reduce tick populations in our yards, they attack and kill poisonous snakes, they disperse seeds of wild fruits and trees, and they are less likely to carry rabies than domestic dogs and therefore are less likely to infect dogs that may attack them.



**Past “ Critter Corner “ articles by Dave deCalesta can be enjoyed on the KLA website. Select “Education >Wildlife & Nature.**



**LIGHT POLLUTION**  
(this article first appeared in our  
August 2022 e-newsletter)



Some members have raised the issue of light pollution around the lake. *Light pollution* is defined as the inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light. Here's an interesting [article from WebMD](#) which states that “while artificial light helps people stay productive after dark, light pollution can have harmful effects on humans, wildlife, the environment, and the economy.”

Regarding the health of a lake, the article notes: "Light pollution...may also increase the risk of algae blooms in bodies of water, which can harm fish and aquatic ecosystems".

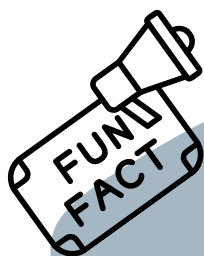
So, what can we do?

Rather than lights- both small and large -that remain on all night, consider whether those lights are needed - and if so, would motion- activated lights focused on key areas be more effective, and friendly to the sky, humans and wildlife?

# KLA DIRECTORS & OFFICERS



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THE KLA BOARD IS A "WORKING BOARD"...MEMBERS NOT ONLY DONATE THEIR TIME TO DEVELOP STRATEGY, BUT ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATIONAL EXECUTION OF THE KLA'S DIRECTIVES. OUR DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS DEDICATE MANY HOURS EVERY MONTH TO THE PROTECTION & PRESERVATION OF KEUKA LAKE.

Thank  
you!

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# TAKE A PEEK

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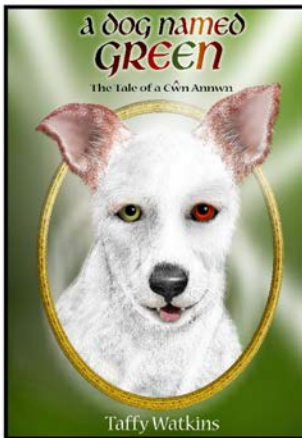


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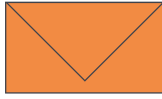


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Dates I wish to receive mailings at KEUKA address: From \_\_\_/\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (month/day)

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

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|-------|-------------------------|--|
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***Thank you for your support!***



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

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