KINDERHOOK LAKE CORPORATION



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The ECO is in the water and ready for action!

kinderhooklakecorp.org

Spring 2018

Rain Gardens - Function & Form Create a Beautiful Solution

Understanding that it is best for storm water flow to be slowed down and given a chance to be absorbed by the ground before entering the lake is the premise behind a rain garden. Soil serves as a filter for groundwater and reduces the amount of toxins that flow into the lake. Research has shown that a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak back into the ground before rushing into a lake or stream than a standard lawn does.

A rain garden is nothing more than a perennial garden with a few added features. Rain Gardens are designed to catch water that flows from impervious surfaces (like roofs, driveways, or patios) and slowly filter it into the ground before making it to the lake. The soil in our area usually needs to be amended with compost or peat to make the garden drain within 24 hours of a rainfall; perennials planted should be able to bear wet feet for that length of time.

Generally, the rain garden is placed a minimum of ten feet from the foundation of a home and should contain an overflow outlet in the event of an excessive rainstorm. Many use gutter extensions or swales to direct water-flow to a rain garden and, in some cases, many homeowners will plant a small rain garden in planter boxes to catch water coming off their house, garage, or deck. A rain garden is a smart and beautiful solution to storm water runoff and will help decrease the phosphorus and nitrogen flowing into our lake.

The Albany County Soil & Water District has provided an "Introduction to Rain Gardens" pamphlet at: <u>http://www.albanycounty.com/Libraries/Soil_Water_Conservation_District/</u><u>Albany_County_Rain_Gardens.sflb.ashx</u>, as well as a comprehensive how-to article, complete with native plants that work well in the garden at: <u>https://www.townofguilderland.org/sites/</u><u>guilderlandny/files/uploads/raingardenhandoutfromrocklandcounty.pdf</u>





Spring Projects Completed

KLC board members were busy this spring with two important projects. One involved the cleanup of the Rt 28 launch and dam. Volunteers raked leaves, trimmed trees and shrubs, cleaned around the shed, expanded the parking lot, and covered the lot with new crushed gravel. Thanks to Bernie Kelleher, Pete Walkes, Rick Theriault, Lauren Desharnais, Bill Cleary, and Jack Warner. Another project involved improving One Tree Island. Board members did a general cleanup, replaced the steps into the water, and trimmed the lake's favorite tree. In an effort to reduce stress and improve the health of the tree, they drilled 25 two-foot deep holes around the tree and then packed them with sand, compost, and a small amount of organic fertilizer. Thanks to Bernie Kelleher, Rick Theriault, and Pete Walkes for their time and effort.

The KLC News

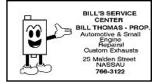
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NYSFOLA

The mission of the New York State of Lake Associations Federation (NYSFOLA) is "to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts". NYSFOLA holds an annual conference attended by hundreds of board members and interested residents from lake associations around the State. This year, two KLC board members, Dan Langer and Ron Jensis, attended the two days of conference sessions, many of them dedicated to lake and watershed management issues. Most sessions were led by environmental scientists and lake managers from Cornell Cooperative Extension, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and lakerelated organizations, as well as professors and grad students from various State Universities.

While at the conference this year, Ron Jensis attended training for the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). CSLAP volunteers collect biweekly water quality data and samples on their lake from June to October for a minimum of five consecutive years. Samples are analyzed by a certified lab and data is recorded in a Statewide database. Each lake can track the yearly changes to its water quality and DEC uses the database to assess the condition of lakes around the state and compile trend data on changes over time to NYS lakes.

KLC Community Lake Day

Come join KLC board members and help celebrate Lake Day on August 4th at One Tree Island. Stop by and say hello to KLC members and friends and enjoy a free hot dog or hamburger between 12:00 and 2:00. The KLC will have Lake merchandise available for sale, membership information and applications.

As part of this celebration, winning tickets will be drawn for the 2018 KLC Fundraising Raffle. More details will be coming in the near future on our Facebook page and website.

Mitigate Nutrient Pollution

Let's face it, the excessive phosphorus and nitrogen that surrounds us and feeds our weeds and algae growth is a problem caused by human activity.

As rainwater and snow-melt move through our communities and farms, there is ample opportunity to pick up phosphorus and nitrogen along the way as the water courses through creeks, tributaries, lakes and into rivers and the ocean. Agricultural operations, storm water runoff, wastewater from our septic systems, graywater containing phosphorus-laden detergents, industry, and the use of fossil fuels all contribute to the collection of nutrient pollution.

There is a nation-wide movement for farms and timbering operations to employ Best Management Practices for water quality and our municipalities are working diligently to enhance storm water management policies. Grant money for programs to line tributaries with riparian buffers are in full swing.

Living within lake bounds where there are no sewer or storm water management systems in place shifts the responsibility of lake stewardship to homeowners. We are the last line of defense in keeping these pollutants out of our lake.

Many of the homes and camps on the lake were built before zoning was enacted and do not meet current standards. Outdated septic systems are one of the largest source of pollutants that feed into our lake. We strongly advocate that homeowners with sub -standard septic systems upgrade to code or, at a minimum, arrange for a septic cleaning every two years. Frequent removal of effluent will improve conditions around the lake, regardless of your system's condition.

You are the solution to nutrient pollution!



Don't forget the water chestnut hand-pulling event on Saturday, June 23, 9:00-11:00am, at the north end of the lake. See our website at <u>kinderhooklakecorp.org</u> for additional information.

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The KLC News

Growing Health Concern Due to HABs

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are nothing new to freshwater communities, but the increase in how often they occur and an uptick in reported illnesses due to exposure to HABS during recent years has prompted the Environmental Protection Agency and New York State to allocate vast resources to stem the growing problem.

As reported by the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, "In 2016, drinking water for more than 40,000 people in Cayuga County was impacted when HABs-related toxins in finished drinking water appeared for the first time." Combine this finding with the 35 HAB-associated illnesses reported to the NYS Department of Health in 2015, and one can see how this growing phenomenon is cause for concern. By all accounts, these illnesses were the direct result of coming in contact with HABs while boating and swimming.



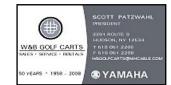
The burgeoning problem with HABs in upstate New York lakes has been the impetus for NYS's \$65 million-dollar budget appropriation and a four-point plan to fight algal blooms in areas where finished drinking water is at risk and where tourism has been severely impacted. Twelve upstate New York lakes will each receive \$500,000 to combat the problem. It is hoped that other lake associations and municipalities will benefit from the research and learn from remediation efforts.

Not all algae found in lakes are harmful, in fact,

they are necessary to the food chain; but when excessive nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen are present – a condition known as eutrophication – they promote an overgrowth spurt that can cause algal blooms. Hot weather, plenty of sunlight, and slow-moving calm water are also contributing factors. Not all algal blooms are toxic, but those that show the presence of cyanobacteria that contain cyanotoxins can make them harmful to humans, pets, and aquatic life. Without testing, it is difficult to determine if an algal bloom is toxic, so the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) advises that all algal blooms be considered as toxic.

DEC has published a pamphlet that advises all water users to recognize the appearance of algal blooms and urges them to stay away from discolored water, foul-smelling water, pond scum or foam. While color is not the only factor, HABs may appear as if pea soup or green paint was spilled into the waterway. The pamphlet provides information on how to report a suspected HABs outbreak to DEC. If you become ill due to contact with HABs, the NYS Department of Health wants to hear from you. You can read more at: <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html</u> and you can see photos of what HABs look like at: <u>https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html</u>.





Monitoring Our Fish Population Continues

The KLC continues to monitor the quantity and size of large-mouth bass caught in Kinderhook Lake. The



Fish Committee canvases fishermen and records their fish count, along with monitoring a bass contest held once a year on the lake. The Committee looks to see if our large-mouth bass population is breeding and if their numbers are increasing or decreasing. The KLC stocked the lake with large-mouth bass in September 2015 and, in an effort to increase the population, imposed a moratorium on the removal of bass thru 2019.

Fishermen are encouraged to report the quantity and size of both large- and smallmouth bass they catch to Pete Walkes (914-217-6779), Mike Francoeur (518-784-2651), or Bill Cleary (518-784-3914). This information will help the Committee determine if its' efforts are working or if additional stocking is needed.



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KINDERHOOK LAKE CORPORATION

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Don't forget... KLC Logo Merchandise

Contact Ken Bosen (518-456-1542) See photos of merchandise on our website.

- KL History Books
- Sweatshirts
- Polo shirts
- T-shirts
- Henleys
- Caps
- Mugs
- Coolies
- First Aid Kits
- Flares
- Key Floats
- Wine Glasses

Money raised through the sale of merchandise is used for the benefit of Kinderhook Lake.

Article Contributors: Daniel Langer Fran Sindlinger Rick Theriault Bill Cleary

> KLC News Editor: Daniel Langer

Aquatic Weed Mapping

The Capital Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) and NY iMapInvasives (part of the NY Natural Heritage Program) trained volunteers for a new pilot program in aquatic plant surveying techniques. The iMapInvasives team made possible the use of a free app (Survey 123) to collect spatial data about plant distribution in lakes. The PRISM is providing the necessary equipment, training, and the data analysis at the end of the season. Several lakes across the Capital Mohawk PRISM are participating and similar programs are



taking place in the Adirondacks and Finger Lakes regions. With the collected data, lake associations will be able to make more informed

decisions about invasive species management. The PRISM will begin to build a database on invasive and native species distribution in its regional waterways and iMapInvasives will have pilot data for testing and reporting to the State.

The Capital Mohawk PRISM provided two training sessions this spring; one was held at Kinderhook Lake in the KLIA Hall. Board member Dan Langer and member volunteers Steve Pugovel and Steve Everett attended the training session and will be taking part in the pilot program this summer. Thanks to the KLIA for the use of their meeting hall.

Dates to Remember

June 23

Water chestnut hand-pulling event: 9-11am at the north end of the lake. See website.

July 4

Kayak Rally: 8:30-11:30am, launch at noon Boat Parade: starts 1:30pm at One Tree Ring of Fire: 9:00pm

August 4

KLC Community Lake Day: 12:00-2:00pm at One Tree

August 12

KLIA Lake Breakfast: 9:00am-12:30pm

August 25

KLC Annual Members' Meeting: 10:00am at the KLIA Hall

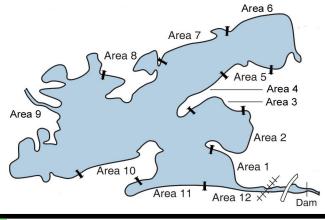


Won't you please join us? Contributions and membership gifts to the KLC are the lifeblood of lake stewardship efforts and we need all the help we can get. If you haven't already joined, please do so, and consider taking advantage of those employer-sponsored matching gift programs.

Sustainable water quality is a global issue and we can all make a difference by joining the fight - one community at a time.

Area Directors

KLC Directors are responsible for certain programs and for representing residents in shoreline areas indicated on the map. If you have concerns, please contact your Area Director.



Area I Fran Sindlinger 518-784-2299 Area 2 (Vacant) Area 3 Dan Langer 518-221-8689 Pete Walkes 914-217-6770 Area 4 Area 5 Ken Bosen 518-456-1542 **Rick Theriault** 518-573-5088 Area 6 Ron lensis 518-784-4355 Area 7 Drew Nelson 347-721-6930 Area 8 Lauren Desharnais 518-567-9812 Area 9 Area 10 Bernie Kelleher 518-784-4717 Area I I Bill Cleary 518-784-3914 Area 12 Mike Francoeur 518-784-2651