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# The KLC News



kinderhooklakecorp.org

Winter 2024

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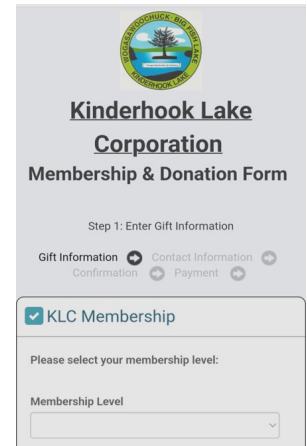
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## Online Membership a Success

Last year we began using a new Online Membership and Donation Form. It has been a huge success, with over 65% of members using the new Online Form. We urge ALL members, donors, and sponsors to use the Online Form, as it interacts directly with our “DonorPerfect” database system, reducing hours of manual input and database errors. The Form is simple and safe to use and can be accessed from our website, [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org). We had a record 349 members in 2023 (including 17 sponsors), compared to 323 members in 2022 (including 15 sponsors). Thanks to Mike Francoeur and Linda Brady for religiously maintaining the membership database.

Should you choose to come in-person to **Membership and Merchandise Days** in the spring, laptops will be available for you to access our Online Membership and Donation Form. You will then be able to walk away with your membership poster, gate key, and trailer sticker, thereby reducing the time and cost of mailing these items to you. Membership and Merchandise Days will be held in the tan metal building located at 9 Old West Shore Drive in Valatie on April 6 & 20 and May 4 & 18 from 9:00am to Noon.

We thank you for your cooperation in this endeavor. If you have questions about the online payment system, please send your inquiry to [kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com](mailto:kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com).



## Please Don't Forget Donations to Our Reserve Funds

In addition to your membership dues, all members and sponsors are strongly encouraged to donate to our Reserve Funds. These Funds were created to help meet larger expenses as they become necessary to maintain the dam and lake in optimal conditions.

◆ **Dam Reserve Fund:** Created specifically to cover the cost of maintaining and upgrading the dam. While our dam is generally in good condition, it will continue to be subject to



deterioration over the years, and we must be ready as unexpected repairs and upgrades are required. For instance, currently, small areas of concrete on the top and downstream face of the secondary spillway are beginning to spall and will need to be repaired before the damage spreads. Your generous donations to the Dam Reserve Fund, along with the board-designated \$850 monthly transfers from the General Fund, will help us be ready to fund these seemingly never-ending projects at the dam.

◆ **Water Quality Fund:** It's all about controlling algae and potential harmful algal blooms. To control algae, the lake is treated with copper sulfate throughout the summer based on chemical analysis every two weeks. The Water Quality Fund pays for testing equipment, training, and license fees for our herbicide applicators, and fuel and maintenance of the herbicide application boat.

(Continued next page...)

## Reserve Funds *(...continued from previous page)*

- ◆ **Weed Management Fund:** Designated to controlling the spread of invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation. Weed Management funds pay for the services of an aquatic vegetation management consultant, any required herbicide treatments to help reduce the spread of aquatic vegetation, and pay for fuel and maintenance of the Eco Harvester.
- ◆ **Fish Fund:** Created decades ago to bolster one of the KLC's original purposes, "...to help secure the planting of bass and other game fish." Fishing is one of the most popular sports on the lake and most people report Kinderhook Lake as a wonderful and enjoyable place to fish. As funds become available, the KLC continues to stock the lake with bass and other game fish, feeder fish, and habitat.



## Getting the Job Done

Between KLC directors and volunteers, we can be proud of all that was accomplished in 2023.

**Launch cleanup.** Each spring, a group of volunteers led by Rick Theriault tackles cleaning up the launch site, parking lot, and area around the dam. This involves picking up and disposing of trash, leaves, and branches, regrading the parking lot surface, cutting back overgrown brush, maintaining the sheds, and more. Thanks to Rick for organizing the volunteer cleanup crew.

**DEC permits.** Each year, the KLC must update its DEC permits which allow for the annual drawdown, use of copper sulfate to manage algae growth, and use of the Eco-Harvester and any herbicides to control the spread of invasive or nuisance aquatic weeds. Thanks to Dan Langer, Ron Jensis, and Drew Nelson for staying on top of the DEC permit application process.

**Dam Operations.** On an almost daily basis throughout the year, Bernie Kelleher and his team adjust the sluice gate to maintain a consistent water level in the lake. As many know, this is not an easy job, and indeed, unexpected weather events can disrupt an otherwise steady flow of water in the lake. However, thanks to Bernie and his team, water levels remained at ideal levels over the summer. Looking ahead, the KLC is in discussions with a new engineering firm to evaluate the current condition of the dam, recommend and design maintenance and improvement projects, and explore potential new flood control measures to help better manage water levels during severe weather events caused by climate change.



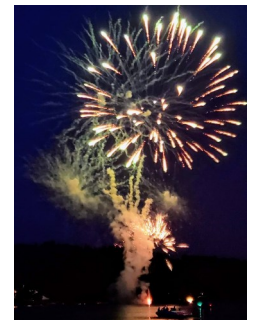
**Algae Control.** The growth of algae and the avoidance of harmful algal blooms (HABs) is a critical concern throughout the summer. Ron Jensis tests the water for the presence of algae every two weeks throughout the summer.

If warranted by test results, Ron and his team ready the applicator boat and distribute copper sulfate around the lake according to our DEC permit.

**Fish Stocking.** Your donations to the Fish Fund were put to good use this past spring; 700 ten- to twelve-inch large-mouth bass were stocked in small groups around the perimeter of the lake. The new fish were efficiently distributed by over a dozen volunteers using a half-dozen boats. Thanks to Bill Cleary and the fish committee for organizing the stocking event on June 6th. We will continue to stock the lake with game fish as funds become available. Please be gentle to all our fish and always remember to return your catch to the lake so they continue to thrive and offer enjoyment to others who love to fish.



**July 4<sup>th</sup>.** Independence Day events are always very popular. Many participated in the kayak rally in the morning, paddling around the lake in pursuit of tickets for the raffle drawing at noon. The Boat Parade was one of the largest in recent history, with more than 15 boats beautifully decorated and paraded around the perimeter of the lake for all to see and enjoy. As always, the ring-of-fire and private fireworks displays after dark were nothing short of spectacular. Thanks to kayak rally organizer Pete Walkes, boat parade leaders Mike & Dawn Francoeur, and assorted volunteers for helping to make it a fun day to be on the lake.



**Lake Day.** It's quite obvious that the community loves Lake Day at One Tree Island. The event was once again well attended this year. Delicious food and drinks, Joel Potts on the guitar, and a lot of fun for attendees. So many directors and volunteers helped to make this event enjoyable and

*(Continued next page...)*

**Getting the Job Done** (...Continued from previous page)

safe, including Bernie Kelleher, Mike Francoeur, Ron Jensis, Brigette Roos, David Wilens, Pete Walkes, Rick Theriault, Bill & Teri Cleary, Mayor Jack (who sold a record 56 raffle tickets), Dave, Mel, Charlie, Cath, Dan, and probably more; plus thanks for the donation of food by John Sorbella and beverages by Mr. Singh. The event raised over \$1,700. We'll do it all again next year on August 3<sup>rd</sup> – mark your calendars!



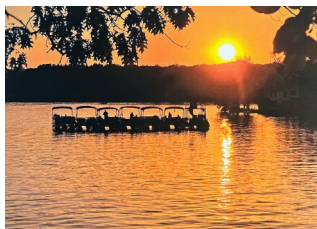
**Merchandise Sales.** Pete Walkes and his enthusiastic sales team did a wonderful job selling KLC merchandise over the summer. Pete has been creating many new beautiful designs for our merchandise over the past few years and it has paid off in increased sales. Including Membership Days, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Lake Day, and a couple of KLIA events, a record \$7,995 in merchandise was sold with \$2,030 in profits to help support KLC programs.



**Members' Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of KLC Members was held at the KLIA hall in late August. This is an opportunity for KLC members to hear reports from each of the board committees that help to manage the lake and dam. It is also an opportunity for KLC members to ask questions and comment on lake- and dam-related issues. Often, there is a display of current aquatic vegetation found in the lake. If you've never attended an annual Members' Meeting, please plan to join us this coming August 24th.

**KLC Calendar.** Once again, Brigette Roos and volunteers produced a new KLC Calendar full of lovely photos taken around the lake. Volunteers took the time to collect, review, select the best photos, and assemble the calendar. And of course a huge thanks to all KLC members who submitted photos. Sales were

brisk and we are almost sold out. Funds raised from the sale of the calendars will be used to support various KLC programs.

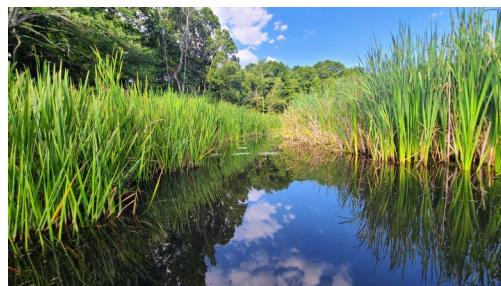


**Launch Dock.** The dock at the launch has been in rough condition for several years, and being hit by a boat this past summer was the final straw. So, the KLC installed a new 32' x 4' aluminum dock. The new dock with bumpers and large cleats will be a huge improvement when launching and retrieving boats. Thanks to Rick Theriault for organizing the installation and volunteers Bernie Kelleher, Pete Walkes, David Wilens, Dan Riozzi, and Charlie Liotta for helping with the installation. A huge thanks to Bill Leader for his significant donation to offset the cost of the dock. Please be respectful and cautious when using the new launch dock, utilize a spotter when backing your trailer in, and use caution when launching and retrieving your boats.



**Bylaws.** The KLC bylaws, originally drafted in 1953, were last revised back in 1999. While the bylaws that govern the KLC are fairly thorough, many sections have become outdated. During the past year, Bylaws Committee members Dan Langer, Bill Cleary, and Bernie Kelleher made numerous revisions that we hope will better help govern the KLC in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Following final approval by our attorney, we hope to have the revised bylaws ratified by members at the Annual Meeting of KLC Members this coming August.

**Communications.** The KLC continues to author and maintain a Facebook page, website, and annual newsletter to help keep members and the community informed about what's going on in and around the lake and dam. If you have not visited our Facebook page or website recently, please do so and feel free to contact us at [kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com](mailto:kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com) with any news, ideas, or suggestions that might improve our messages. Recently, we created a KLC Gmail account to allow us to email members using a recognizable address in case of an emergency or special event. Please whitelist [kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com](mailto:kinderhooklakecorp@gmail.com) so you will be sure to receive future KLC emails; we will do our best not to burden you with too many emails. Thanks to Dan Langer and other volunteers for helping to keep the lines of communication open.



## Help Protect Our Lake With a Rain Garden

A rain garden is basically a perennial garden planted between your house and the lake. 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. If you have the space, installing a rain garden can



protect and improve our water quality by helping to reduce the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen flowing into our lake; that's the food loved by algae and aquatic weeds. Rain gardens also provide food and shelter for butterflies, song birds and other wildlife, and add beauty and value to your property.



There are endless federal, state, and local resources online offering guidance to locating and constructing a rain garden, as well as suggestions for the best types of plants to use in our region. Just Google it!

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## Sorry To See You Go, Mr. Cleary

We wish to bid 'adieu' and thank Bill Cleary, who has decided to retire from the KLC Board of Directors. Bill has spent summers on the lake for most of his life and has been passionate in his efforts to improve the lake and dam, as well as the quality of life in the lake community.



*Bill Cleary operating the Eco-Harvester*

Bill is not going anywhere (that we are aware of), he just decided it's time to let others carry on. If you see Bill and his wife Teri boating on the lake or sitting on their deck, please send out a wave and a huge thank you. He will be missed as an active member of the Board.



## Aquatic Vegetation

Native and invasive aquatic weeds provide food and habitat for fish, food for waterfowl, and help balance oxygen and nutrient levels for a healthy lake. Of course, an overabundance of weeds can become detrimental to the lake ecology as well as recreational activities.

Since our ProcellaCor application to eradicate 205 acres of Eurasian milfoil in June of 2021, we have enjoyed three summers virtually milfoil-free. But we can't become complacent and will continue to maintain a DEC permit as it is likely that ProcellaCor treatments will be necessary this coming summer. Please consider a donation to the Weed Management Fund to help offset the cost of upcoming treatments.

Native pondweeds have started filling in where the milfoil used to grow. Invasive curly-leaf pondweed has been filling in also, but since the curly-leaf dies back naturally in early July as the lake temperature rises, it has not 'yet' become a nuisance.

Bill Cleary has been successfully removing water chestnuts from the north end of the lake with our Eco-Harvester. Recently, this invasive species has been spreading to other bays around the lake but is too sparse to be efficiently collected by the harvester. Therefore, we are planning two volunteer hand-pulling events this summer on June 29 and July 13. Please stay tuned to Facebook and the website this spring for news about volunteering to help pull water chestnuts.

Of interest, a new weed was discovered in the shallows at the north end of the lake this past summer - bladderwort. This is a carnivorous aquatic species. Don't be alarmed, it's not a man-eater. Bladderwort feasts on microscopic aquatic creatures and has a huge appetite for very small insects, insect larvae, and other microscopic animals which float through the water. This new weed, as well as all the others, will keep Dan Langer and the weed committee on their toes!



*Bladderwort*

**KINDERHOOK  
LAKE  
CORPORATION**

PO Box 53  
Niverville, NY 12130

kinderhooklakecorp.org

*Don't forget...*

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Merchandise**

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*Money raised through the sale of merchandise is used to benefit Kinderhook Lake programs.*

**KLC News Editor:**  
Daniel Langer

**Annual Notice of Copper Sulfate Treatment**

The KLC has applied to NYSDEC for a permit to treat Kinderhook Lake with copper sulfate (EPA Registration No. 46923-4). Copper sulfate is an herbicide which is used broadly to control algae. The levels used will be within the limits permitted by NYSDEC to kill blue-green algae without affecting other forms of algae.

In early spring, when water temperatures are low, white algae, called diatoms, multiply rapidly. That algae, as well as several other forms of brown and green, are produced as the water warms; they are excellent food for crustaceans, mollusks, and fish fry. However, when water temperatures reach 68 degrees F, blue-green algae begins to multiply rapidly. Since blue-greens are not consumed by other organisms, they grow at the expense of the edible forms. If left untreated, levels will rise, water clarity will decrease, and an unsightly, odor-producing scum of blue-green algae will form on the surface. Blue-green algae are not toxic to humans but may be to some dogs and other domestic animals.

Swimming, eating fish, and watering domestic animals will be restricted for 24 hours following treatment. Persons wishing to register their disapproval with regard to the proposed treatment may do so by writing or calling Mr. Mark Solan, NYSDEC Region #4, 1130 N. Wescott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306, (518) 357-2045; persons wishing to do so have twenty-one days from the date of this notice. No response from riparian owners will be considered consent for the applications.



**Dates to Remember**

**Early Spring**

Lake level starts rising to summer level. Usually late-March or early April. Date is weather dependent and will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

**April 6 & 20**

**Membership Days:**

9am-noon, 9 Old West Shore Dr, Valatie

**May 4 & 18**

**Membership & Merchandise Days:**

9am-noon, 9 Old West Shore Dr, Valatie

**June 29 & July 13**

**Water Chestnut Hand-Pull Event:**

9am-11am, north end of lake

**July 4**

**Annual Independence Day Events:**

Kayak Rally, Boat Parade, Ring of Fire

**August 3**

**Annual KLC Community Lake Day:**

12:00-2:00pm at One Tree Island

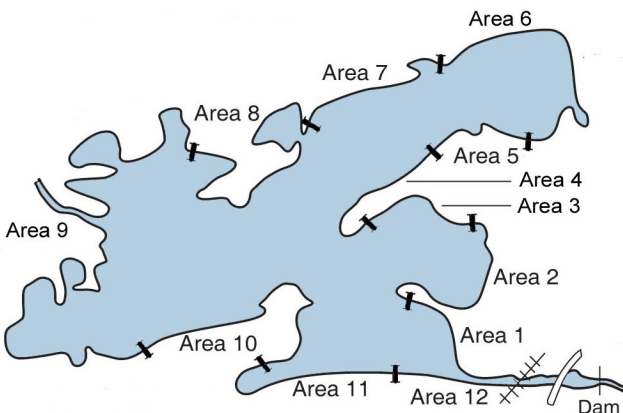
**August 24**

**KLC Annual Members' Meeting:**

10:00am at the KLIA Hall

**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 1	Linda Brady	518-784-3023
Area 2	Steve Everett	518-610-8542
Area 3	Dan Langer	518-221-8689
Area 4	Pete Walkes	914-217-6770
Area 5	David Wilens	914-413-1758
Area 6	Rick Theriault	518-573-5088
Area 7	Ron Jensis	518-784-4355
Area 8	Drew Nelson	347-721-6930
Area 9	Briggette Roos	518-567-9468
Area 10	Bernie Kelleher	518-929-7232
Area 11	(vacant)	
Area 12	Mike Francoeur	518-784-2651