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# The KLC News



[kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org)

Winter 2026

## Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Kinderhook Lake Corporation,

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to share the progress our dedicated directors and volunteers have made in preserving and enhancing Kinderhook Lake and the Nivers Dam.



This year we efficiently managed launch site maintenance and cleanup, updated DEC permits for responsible lake management, and maintained optimal water levels while advancing dam improvement planning. Our team continued regular algae monitoring and treatment and closely monitored the expansion of Eurasian milfoil. Of special significance, we have successfully completed structural reinforcements to the dam, ensuring stability well into the future. Due to years of proactive planning by the board and generous donations from our members, the dam upgrade was paid in full out of the Dam Reserve and General Funds with no need for project specific fundraising.

In preparation for next year we are planning to treat the rapidly expanding invasive Eurasian milfoil with ProcellaCor. In addition to a ProcellaCor fundraising campaign, an ad-hoc committee was formed and worked tirelessly to submit our first-ever application for an invasive species grant from DEC to help offset the cost of the upcoming treatment.

Community engagement remained strong through well-attended July 4<sup>th</sup> and Lake Day events, as well as two successful invasive water chestnut hand-harvesting events. Our Eco-Harvester continues to be an important tool in our lake management arsenal for control of invasive species. Record merchandise sales and fundraising helped to support ongoing programs. Thank you to the dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers who help make our initiatives and programs a continued success.

Looking ahead to 2026, our priorities include continuing proactive lake and dam maintenance, controlling the growth of algae and aquatic invasive species, expanding community events and educational outreach, and enhancing fundraising efforts to support conservation initiatives.

Your continued involvement is vital to our success. I encourage you to participate in upcoming events, volunteer your time, and support our fundraising efforts. Together, we can ensure Kinderhook Lake remains a vibrant resource for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

Regards,

**Bernie Kelleher**  
President, Kinderhook Lake Corporation



## Your Membership Matters!

Did you know that membership dues and business sponsorships are the lifeblood of the programs that keep Nivers Dam safe and Kinderhook Lake clean, vibrant, and welcoming for everyone? By renewing your membership or sponsorship—preferably through our easy Online Membership and Donation Form at [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org)—you directly contribute to the ongoing care and improvement of our cherished community resource. This year we've made a few slight adjustments to our dues and sponsorship levels to help meet the challenges of rising expenses. Your continued support is more important than ever.

If you prefer to renew your membership or sponsorship in person, please attend one of our Membership and Merchandise Days on April 25th or May 9th at 9 Old West Shore Drive, Valatie, between 9:00AM and Noon. KLC Merchandise will be available. Plus, this will also give you an opportunity to chat with some KLC Directors.



Beyond annual dues and sponsorships, we invite you to consider a donation to one of our dedicated funds, each designed to address specific needs:

- **Dam Reserve Fund:** Ensures we can maintain and upgrade Nivers Dam for safety and longevity.
- **Water Quality Fund:** Supports efforts to control algae and prevent harmful algal blooms, keeping the lake healthy.
- **Weed Management Fund:** Targets the spread of invasive and nuisance aquatic plants, preserving the lake's natural beauty.
- **Fish Stocking Fund:** Helps us fulfill one of KLC's original missions—planting bass and other game fish to enrich our ecosystem.

If you have a neighbor or know someone who isn't yet a member, please share the benefits of joining the KLC. Not sure what to say? Just share this newsletter and point them to our website, where they can discover all the ways KLC works to maintain and enhance Kinderhook Lake and the Nivers Dam.

Together, we can ensure Kinderhook Lake remains a clean, safe, and enjoyable place for generations to come. Thank you for your support!

## Dam Progress: A Major Milestone

If you've driven by the dam recently—or seen the photos online—you know that something significant has been happening. After months of planning, engineering review, and on-site construction, 98% of the dam repair work has been completed, a remarkable achievement given weather constraints and the complexity of the project.

What many don't realize is the scale and precision required to do this work correctly. Crews upwards of 12+ workers spent over six weeks removing large sections of deteriorated concrete, installing extensive reinforcement, and rebuilding critical faces of the structure—



work that can only be done with specialized equipment, experienced contractors, and careful sequencing. This is not cosmetic repair; it is essential infrastructure work that protects lake levels, downstream flow, and the long-term safety of the dam. This means we'll continue to have a lake to enjoy.

The contractor will return in the spring, once temperatures are consistently warm, to install the required joint sealants, completing the final phase of the project. We encourage everyone to visit the KLC website to see photos and a short video documenting the work. It's powerful proof of where your donations go—and how much effort it takes to keep Kinderhook Lake viable for generations to come.



## Wake Boats & Kinderhook Lake

Wake boats have become increasingly popular on Kinderhook Lake, bringing energy and excitement to summer days. Yet their unique design—built to generate large, surfable wakes—also creates environmental pressures that differ from traditional motorboats. These amplified waves can cause damage to docks, accelerate shoreline erosion, disturb aquatic vegetation, and resuspend sediment, which reduces water clarity and disrupts fish habitats. In a lake as cherished and ecologically sensitive as Kinderhook, understanding these impacts is essential for preserving the health of the ecosystem.

### Responsible Operation Makes a Difference

Fortunately, many of the environmental concerns associated with wake boats can be significantly reduced through thoughtful boating practices. Stay as far as possible from other watercraft as the large, intense wakes can capsize smaller vessels (kayaks, fishing boats) or throw passengers off balance, leading to injury. Operating at least 200–300 feet from shore and in water greater than 15-feet deep helps prevent shoreline erosion and protects docks and nesting areas. Keeping ballast tanks clean and fully drained before entering the lake reduces the risk of transporting invasive species. Maintaining moderate speeds when not actively wake surfing or wakeboarding also minimizes unnecessary turbulence and fuel consumption. These small adjustments add up to meaningful improvements for water quality and wildlife.



### A Shared Commitment to Kinderhook Lake's Future

Kinderhook Lake thrives when recreation and stewardship go hand in hand. Wake boat operators who follow best practices help ensure that everyone—from paddlers to anglers to swimmers—can enjoy the lake safely and sustainably. By staying mindful of wake size, respecting no-wake zones, and supporting ongoing conservation efforts, boaters play a direct role in protecting the lake's natural beauty. With a community-wide commitment to responsible boating, Kinderhook Lake can remain a vibrant, healthy resource for generations to come.

## ProcellaCor Fundraising—Protecting Summer 2026 Now

While recent bitter cold temperatures and winter storms have reminded us that spring still feels far away, planning for the summer happens now. As many of you saw last summer, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is present in many areas of the lake and, without action, conditions could quickly resemble the difficult seasons of 2019 and 2020.

The KLC has submitted permit applications to DEC for a 2026 ProcellaCor treatment and is working closely with regulators to secure approval for treating approximately 140 acres of EWM (final acreage to be confirmed in June). We are actively fundraising to ensure we can proceed with the treatment as soon as permits are issued. To date, we have raised over

\$61,000, almost half of our goal—THANK YOU!!!! Fundraising “thermometers” on our website and at the Rt. 28 launch show our continuing progress toward the \$125,000 goal. At the same time, we have applied for an invasive species grant from DEC, but there is no guarantee of receiving any grant funding.

Permit approvals, contractor scheduling, and treatment windows are narrow. Donations remain essential and are the ONLY reliable source of funding we can count on to ensure the lake is swimmable, boatable, and fishable this summer, regardless of grant outcomes.

These photos from last fall show just how quickly conditions can deteriorate without treatment.



## 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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## Please Support Our Business Sponsors

Many business cards are difficult to read at this size and printing. Please see the **Sponsors** page of our website for a better view of our Sponsors.

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## Notice of ProcellaCor Treatment

February 12, 2026

To Riparian Landowners of Kinderhook Lake,

This notice is required by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to apply the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCor in Kinderhook Lake for control of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). The Kinderhook Lake Corporation (KLC) has engaged the services of Burden Aquatics Inc., a company that specializes in aquatic plant management, to complete the application of ProcellaCor.

The KLC has applied for a DEC permit to conduct ProcellaCor aquatic herbicide treatments in 2026. We are planning to spot treat all areas of EWM throughout the lake. The proposed treatment is planned for mid- to late-June. ProcellaCor is very selective in controlling invasive EWM and will have no impact on native vegetation or wildlife. The proposed treatments will only take place after we receive the approved permits from DEC. The shoreline will be posted prior to any treatments.

The ProcellaCor labels are available to view on the KLC website at [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org). If you need a printed copy, please contact the KLC at the number below.

Water use restrictions associated with use of ProcellaCor are as follows: (1) No swimming in the treatment areas on the day of application; (2) Do not use lake water for irrigation or livestock watering until the ProcellaCor levels are tested less than 1ppb, approximately 5-days after the day of treatment. Shoreline posting signs will be removed after irrigation restrictions are lifted.

For technical information about ProcellaCor treatments, you may contact Frank Maier, President of Burden Aquatics Inc., at 518-674-5311. For general information about the KLC, you may contact Bernie Kelleher, KLC President, at 518-929-7232.

As an affected riparian landowner, you have the right to consent or object to the water use restrictions resulting from the proposed ProcellaCor treatments. Your objection must demonstrate that your use of the water body will be significantly adversely affected. If you are a downstream riparian owner, you have received this notice as a DEC requirement.

You have twenty-one days from the date of this notice to respond to this notice. If you have concerns about the proposed treatments, please file a written document stating your concerns to the DEC representative listed below. No response from riparian owners will be considered consent for the applications.

Send your written comments to: Alana Aho, Pesticide Control Specialist, NYS DEC Region 4, 1130 N. Westcott Road Schenectady, NY 12306.



## Swans of Kinderhook Lake

Kinderhook Lake is home to Mute Swans, a graceful species found along the north Atlantic Coast and in the Great Lakes. These elegant birds are most often seen in the northwest section of our lake during spring and fall, and occasionally at the south end of the lake. Their presence adds beauty and ecological value to the lake community.

Swans are renowned for forming lifelong bonds, though they may seek a new mate if their partner dies. Mating season occurs once a year, from March to May, with each pair laying 4–10 eggs. The young, called cygnets, remain with their parents through the summer and leave the following fall to join new flocks. This family structure helps maintain healthy swan populations and offers delightful sightings for lake residents and visitors.



Mute Swans feed by pulling up aquatic plants with their long necks, helping control invasive weeds in the lake. In winter, they usually stay within their breeding territories if there's open water and food, thanks to their thick layer of down for insulation. During harsh winters, they may move to find better habitats, but



unlike some waterfowl, they don't migrate to Florida. Their adaptability ensures they remain a feature of Kinderhook Lake.

To help swans in winter, offer waterfowl pellets, chopped greens (romaine lettuce, kale, spinach), or cooked potatoes and rice. Avoid bread, as it lacks nutritional value. In the wild, Mute Swans typically live about 10 years, but some can reach 30 years or more.

**KINDERHOOK  
LAKE  
CORPORATION**

PO Box 53  
Niverville, NY 12130

kinderhooklakecorp.org

*Don't forget...*

**KLC Logo  
Merchandise**

**Contact Pete Walkes  
914-217-6770**

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- ◆ **More...**

*Funds raised through the sale of merchandise are used to benefit Kinderhook Lake programs.*

**Contributors:**

Alex Wright  
Erik Piecuch  
Dan Langer

**KLC News Editor:**

Daniel Langer

**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 NYS DEC Region #4, Bureau of Pesticide Management, 1130 N. Westcott 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 - early-April. Date is dependent on ice-out and will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

**April 25 & May 9**

**Membership & Merchandise Days:**  
9am-Noon, 9 Old West Shore Dr, Valatie

**June 27**

**1st Water Chestnut Hand-Pull Event:**  
10am-Noon, north end of lake

**July 4**

**Annual Independence Day Events:**  
Kayak Rally, Boat Parade, Ring of Fire

**July 11**

**2nd Water Chestnut Hand-Pull Event:**  
10am-Noon, north end of lake

**August 1**

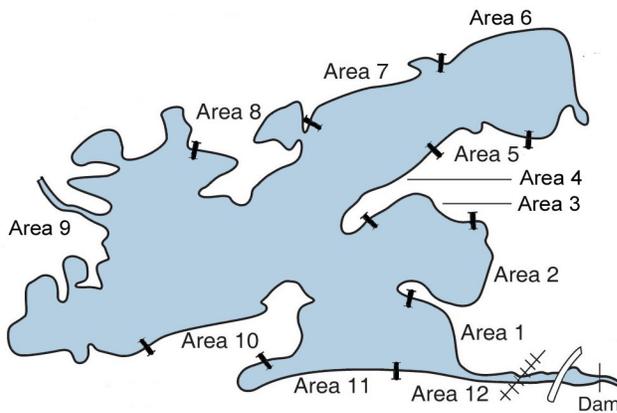
**Annual KLC Community Lake Day:**  
12:00-2:00pm at One Tree Island

**August 29**

**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
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Area 9	Briggette Roos	518-567-9468
Area 10	Bernie Kelleher	518-929-7232
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