

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Wave Reviews

Winter 2021 Edition

Visit the Skaneateles Lake website for resources and tips on how to protect the water quality of Skaneateles Lake
www.skanlakeinfo.org

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*Brought to you by the City of
Syracuse Department of Water
Ben Walsh, Mayor*

Skaneateles Lake Education Program: A Year in Review

Camille Marcotte, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County programming in the Skaneateles watershed brings workshops, trainings, educational materials, volunteer and stewardship opportunities, and updates related to water quality protection to the watershed community.

The Skaneateles Watershed Education Program works to:

- reduce non-point source pollution in the watershed
- improve watershed health and water quality
- connect residents, homeowners, farmers, landowners, and municipal officials with information and opportunities to implement evidence-based best practices for protecting water quality
- fulfill the City of Syracuse's filtration avoidance waiver

Read a summary of this year's programs on page 5.

Stay tuned for additional programming to be announced starting next year!

Suggestions for future programs may be shared with CCE Onondaga Water and Ecology Educator, Camille Marcotte, by email at ctm78@cornell.edu or by phone at (315) 424-9485 ext.232. We welcome your suggestions and feedback!

Resources from all programs are posted to the CCE Onondaga website at: www.cceonondaga.org and the Skaneateles Lake Watershed website at: www.skanlakeinfo.org.

If you're not on our mailing list, be sure to sign up for notices about upcoming programs (1-2 emails per month): <http://eepurl.com/bQ22XP>

Keep reading for more information on water quality happenings in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed!

The Skaneateles Watershed Education Program works to protect the water quality of Skaneateles Lake, a treasured resource that serves as the primary drinking water source for Skaneateles and the City of Syracuse. The City of Syracuse has funded this program since its inception in 1996.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County



Land Trust Adds One-Mile Hiking Trail to Network of Conserved Lands Overlooking Skaneateles Lake

Finger Lakes Land Trust

The Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) formally opened a new one-mile hiking trail connecting its High Vista Nature Preserve to its Hinchcliff Family Preserve near the south end of Skaneateles Lake. The trail is located in a scenic area of steep forested hillsides which play a crucial role in protecting the water quality of the lake.

In July 2020, the FLLT purchased 75 wooded acres in Cortland and Onondaga counties, linking the two existing nature preserves, just west of State Route 41. With this latest acquisition, the organization has created a 2.25 mile-long corridor of conserved lands overlooking the eastern shore of Skaneateles Lake.

The woodland trail can now be accessed from a High Vista Preserve trailhead on Vincent Hill Road in the town of Scott, or from within the Hinchcliff Preserve in the town of Spafford. The trail is open during daylight hours for quiet nature observation and low-impact recreation such as hiking, trail running, and snowshoeing. With the addition of the connector trail, ambitious hikers can now travel over 4.5 miles between the two preserves.

Ongoing efforts by the FLLT focus on securing hillsides in this area, known as the Skaneateles Highlands. Its extensive upland forest provides habitat for a diversity of birds and also prevents erosion and nutrient loading in the lake. Watch a beautiful aerial video highlighting the property at flt.org/highlands.



Nature Preserve Manager Jason Gorman and Skaneateles residents Tom Fairhurst & Patty Weisse cut a ribbon at the new trail in August.

The Endless Summer Storms

Chris Travis, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District



10-Mile Creek - looking upstream from crossing, 8/18/21

Not one person in the Towns of Skaneateles or Spafford needs to be reminded how much rain we received this summer, but I'll go ahead and remind everyone else. Our region received precipitation during three major storm events this summer equivalent to the 200-year (July 11th), 100-year (August 17th), and 50-year (October 16th) storms respectively. Clearly referring to these storms as 100-year events is a misnomer, as they seem to occur every two to five years in reality; but what is clear, is that these storms are becoming more and more frequent.

Onondaga County Soil and Water technicians were pleased to report working with Town of Spafford Highway Superintendent Jody Fisher was not only effective, but complimentary; Mr. Fisher worked tirelessly to clean damaged roads and streams, he implemented erosion and sediment controls to keep sediment out of

the lake during said cleanouts. Yes, Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program facilitated the permitting process for the cleanout of 10-Mile Creek, Randall Gulf, and an emergency culvert replacement at Spafford Landing, but it was Jody and his guys who did the heavy lifting, pun intended.

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10-Mile post-cleanout, 10/6/2021

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SLWAP is grateful to have partners like Mr. Fisher, individuals who go out of their way to educate themselves and grow their knowledge to better understand the ecosystems and resources we are all working to safeguard. Give the highway guys a wave and beep the next time you see them out there, they've missed a lot of sleep this summer.

Waste Ag Tire Recycling Project

Eric Jensen, Resource Conservation Specialist, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Waste ag tires piled outside provide an environment for mosquitoes to breed in the stagnant water that collects inside. These mosquitos pose a health concern since they can carry West Nile Virus, EEE, and other diseases. By removing the tires, the risk of disease is reduced. In addition, large tire piles are a risk if they catch fire and release thick black smoke and other pollutants through runoff during fire extinguishing efforts. Farms have a difficult time finding safe options to dispose of worn-out ag tires to comply with new NYS DEC waste tire regulations since most landfills and tire recyclers do not accept them due to the size and thickness of the tires. NYS DEC regulations prohibit burial or burning of tires. The Skaneateles Lake Watershed Ag Program (SLWAP) partnered with the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District was able to identify a facility in Niagara Falls, New York that processes large ag tires.



Telescopic handlers loading tires into semi-trailer

This summer with cooperation of local farms, we were able to load and ship to be processed nine semi-trailer loads of waste ag tires totaling 154 tons. That is equivalent to over 10,600 auto and pickup truck tires! Semi-trailers require extra high lift equipment to load the tires over the 13.5-foot-high sidewalls. The large ag tires are loaded first, then smaller ag tires are loaded to fill in the void spaces around the large ag tires to complete the trailer loads. Waste tires will be shredded into chips of various sizes and used for energy or other uses. We believe the extra effort to remove these ag tires and comply with NYS DEC regulations will provide lasting environmental benefits to the watershed and community.

For more information on waste ag tire recycling, contact the SLWAP & Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District office location at 6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway, Liverpool at (315) 457-0325.



Farm tire loading operations in progress (left)



Windrow of tires ready for loading (right)

Watershed Tributary Restoration Projects Showcased on Skaneateles Lake

Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District & Skaneateles Lake Association

Shotwell Brook - The Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program (SLWAP) recently completed the Shotwell Brook stream restoration project in the Town of Skaneateles. Intense storm events have historically resulted in high volume turbid discharges at the tributary outlet resulting in sediment plumes affecting a City of Syracuse drinking water intake. The project involved the enhancement of a riparian wetland by creating four shallow pocket wetlands along 600 feet of Shotwell Brook. A rock cross vane was installed at the upstream end of the project to maintain stream grade in the upper reach and direct discharges above bank-full flow into the enhanced floodplain/wetland, allowing for temporary storage and attenuation of peak flows. Creating an expansive floodplain provides enhanced benefits for the watershed such as carbon sequestration, downstream flood mitigation, and water quality improvements, including: sediment trapping, nutrient removal and chemical detoxification.



Shotwell Brook stream restoration project in the Town of Skaneateles



Pocket wetlands created for the Shotwell Brook stream restoration project

The project was a collaboration between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, SLWAP and Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District. A huge thank you to Gian Dodici of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for his key role in project design and consultation, to Kurt Warren, site contractor, who completed the project before the deadline and under budget, the City of Syracuse and NYS Climate Resilient Farming Grant for funding, and to the landowner Louisa Cohan of Harrison's Farm for allowing this project to be constructed on their property. This project is another demonstration of several agencies working together to improve water quality and help keep Skaneateles Lake clean!



Dowling Creek - The Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) co-hosted a planting event on November 19th, 2021 with the Skaneateles Country Club (SCC) and partners involved in making improvements to Dowling Creek, a tributary to Skaneateles Lake. The planting event was a celebration in supporting lake protection through the stream project that included The Nature Conservancy, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchor QEA Engineers, and SUNY-ESF.

Along with the construction phase that helped take energy out of the stream flow that can contribute to erosion, the planting phase of the project will help take up nutrients before entering the lake. SUNY-ESF and its Restoration Science Center was brought into the project to help with the planting design. Plants selected for the project will help support more diversity in wildlife and provide root structure that will help retain soil and prevent additional sedimentation in the lake.

SLA project partners included: The Nature Conservancy, who provided staff to develop initial designs with the US Fish & Wildlife; Anchor QEA

Engineers, who helped finalize designs; SUNY-ESF, who provided expertise and plants to enhance the stream habitat; and the Skaneateles Country Club who, along with SLA, provided staff and financial support and is the host site for the project. For more information, visit skaneateleslake.org.

L2R - Olivia Green & Jim Howe with The Nature Conservancy; Joanie Mahoney - SUNY-ESF President; Zach Maslyn - Skaneateles Country Club General Manager; Gian Dodici - US Fish & Wildlife Service; Tim Johnson- Anchor QEA Engineers; Paul Torrisi - SLA Board President - planting an Elderberry Bush

Skaneateles Lake Education Program: A Year in Review

(continued from first page)

In 2021, the Skaneateles Lake Education Program held several virtual programs on Zoom.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Planning and Management in Skaneateles

Monday, March 1st, 2021

This talk by Caroline Marschner of the New York State Hemlock Initiative kicked off programming for the year. Carri presented basic information on hemlocks and HWA, and focused on the management strategies available and tools for planning a response to HWA on your property. She also covered the biological control research for HWA at Cornell University.

Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week

Sunday, May 2nd - Saturday, May 8th, 2021

This week offered free virtual education sessions and resources to all who live in the Finger Lakes region. Experts presented throughout the week on topics that included citizen science, native plants, and shorescaping. The educational sessions were designed to inform and empower watershed residents to make changes to protect the Finger Lakes. This educational week was organized by the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance, specifically the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes, which consists of the many different lake associations in the region.

iMapInvasives Training

Thursday, June 10th, 2021

This interactive session offered a refresher of some common invasive species in the Finger Lakes. The session also included a basic training on the web and mobile application versions of iMapInvasives, an online database used to track and report invasive species sightings. This program was offered during New York's annual Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Transitioning Your Lawn to a Meadow

Wednesday, July 14th, 2021

People who live around Skaneateles Lake learned more about ways to steward their land, specifically the benefits of transitioning their lawn or a portion of their lawn to a more natural, meadow landscape. Sam Quinn from SUNY ESF's Restoration Science Center spoke about how to create a meadow on your property and shared some beautiful photo examples!

Spotted Lanternfly Information Session

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive pest from Asia that mainly feeds on tree of heaven, but can also feed on plants, including grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees and more. Participants learned how to get involved in identifying and reporting SLF.

Streams 101 for Skaneateles Lake

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Skaneateles Lake has about 150 distinct watercourses that flow into the lake, all of which play a role in the lake's water quality. Homeowners and other stakeholders learned the basics of how stream systems function and the role stream health plays in water quality of the lake. Presented by Carl Schwartz with US Fish and Wildlife.

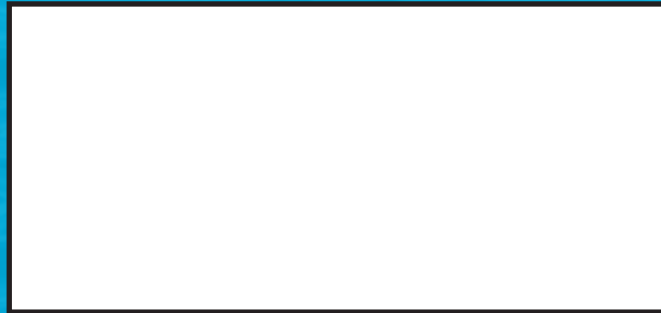
A huge thank you to all our collaborators this year. We are grateful to work in partnership with you all to protect Skaneateles Lake!

Several programs were recorded and the recordings are available on the CCE Onondaga YouTube page at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3Feq9TB>.

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Skaneateles Lake Wave Reviews

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Stay connected!

Join our Water Quality List-serve to receive digital WAVE Reviews, event announcements, and more. Skaneateles Watershed Residents and those looking to protect water quality in their community are encouraged to join.

List serve accessible through this direct link <http://eepurl.com/bQ22XP> or by visiting our website at www.cceonondaga.org and searching for our 'Skaneateles Lake' landing page.

Don't forget to check out the new Skaneateles Lake Watershed website at www.skanlakeinfo.org

Important Municipal Contacts for the Skaneateles Watershed

Cayuga County Health Department 315-253-1405
Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District 315-252-4171
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County 315-424-9485
Cortland County Health Department 607-753-5036
Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District 607-756-5991
NYS DEC Region 7 Environmental Permits (Onondaga & Cayuga) 315-426-7438
NYS DEC Region 7 Environmental Permits Sub-office (Cortland) 607-753-3095
NYS DEC Spill Prevention and Response 800-457-7362
NYS DEC Region 7 Water & Wastewater (Stormwater, Dam Safety, Flood Control) 315-426-7500
Onondaga County Health Department 315-435-3252
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District 315-457-0325
Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program 315-457-0325
Syracuse Water Department (Skaneateles) 315-448-8366

This newsletter was created by Camille Marcotte of Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County and Rich Abbott, City of Syracuse Water Dept. Special thank you to our partnering contributors!

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Education Program

Funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension programming in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed is provided by the City of Syracuse Department of Water.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program and employment provider.
If you need special assistance, please contact our office at 315-424-9485.*