

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Wave Reviews

Summer 2022 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*

A Recap of the Heavy Rains, Beauty and Butterflies Educational Series

By: Camille Marcotte, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

This spring and summer, several partners in the Skaneateles Lake watershed hosted a series on Landscaping for Heavy Rains, Beauty & Butterflies. There were four educational sessions offered as part of the series:

- **Meadow, Thicket, Woods, and Water: The Patterns of Native Landscape Design** - Wednesday, March 23, 2022
- **Planning for the Unplanned: Native Design as an Ecological Process** - Wednesday, April 27, 2022
- **Ecology Based Design: In the Field** - Friday, June 24, 2022
- **Filter your Pollution through a Beautiful Rain Garden** - Wednesday, July 13, 2022

The first two sessions were held virtually and focused on the patterns of native landscaping and ecological processes behind native design. Speaker Larry Weaner, of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, presented case studies that showed how native landscaping can be applied on a variety of landscape scales and settings. In session two, he also explored how incorporating natural processes (like disturbance, succession, competition and pollination) can help designers, contractors and homeowners.

The third session was interactive and outdoors at the Doce Lume Farm/Go Native! perennials property with speakers Sam Quinn, from the SUNY ESF Restoration Science Center, and Larry Weaner. Attendees were able to examine a native plant meadow up close, and even assisted in seeding a future native plant meadow. (continued on page 3)



Presenters Larry Weaner (left) and Sam Quinn (right) share information on how to install a meadow at Doce Lume Farm/Go Native! perennials

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.

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Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan – An Introduction

By: Aaron McKeon, Environmental Program Manager, Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

This spring, the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element (9E) Plan got underway, with a kick-off meeting for the plan's Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) held in April and the first public meeting held in June.

9E Watershed Plans are based around a framework established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This framework consists of nine key elements that are intended to identify the contributing causes of nonpoint source pollution, involve key stakeholders in the planning process, and identify restoration and protection strategies that will address the water quality concerns.



Skaneateles Lake - photo credit: Aaron McKeon

The nine minimum elements to be included in these plans are:

- A. Identify and quantify sources of pollution in the watershed.
- B. Identify water quality goals and the pollutant reductions needed to achieve these goals.
- C. Identify the best management practices (BMPs) that will help to achieve the reductions needed to meet the water quality goals.
- D. Describe the financial and technical assistance needed to implement BMPs identified in Element C.
- E. Describe the outreach to stakeholders and how their input was incorporated.
- F. Estimate a schedule to implement BMPs identified in plan.
- G. Describe the milestones and estimated time frames for the implementation of BMPs.
- H. Identify the criteria that will be used to assess water quality improvement as the plan is implemented.
- I. Describe the monitoring plan that will collect water quality data needed to measure water quality improvement (the criteria identified in Element H).

An important part of the 9E process is the use of digital models of the watershed and the lake itself. These models can use information on land use, weather conditions, underlying soil and bedrock, and water samples from around the watershed to simulate existing conditions. They can also be used to test various scenarios, such as how a proposed BMP would affect overall water quality, and to help establish what BMPs would be most effective in reaching a specific water quality goal.

The 9E Plan will focus primarily on nutrient levels, but the planning process will take other issues, such as invasive species and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), into consideration.

The first in-person public meeting for this project was held on June 15th, but more public meetings will be coming. Keep watching the 9E Plan website for more information: <https://skaneateles9e.cnyrpdb.org/>

The 9E Plan is being prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund, in cooperation with the Town of Skaneateles and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

(continued from page 1)

The final session took place in July at the Skaneateles Library. Presenter Emily Garavuso from EDR spoke about green infrastructure practices, like bioswales, rain gardens and green roofs, and how they can help slow the flow of water to improve stormwater quality. The event concluded with a series wrap-up and reception with refreshments and tour of the John D. Barrow Art Gallery.

Continuing education credits were offered through the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Society for Landscape Architects.

Thank you to all of the sponsors: GoNative Perennials, Skaneateles Lake Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Finger Lakes Land Trust, SUNY ESF Restoration Science Center, Cornell Botanic Gardens, Wild Ones Habitat Gardening CNY, the Skaneateles Library, and the John D. Barrow Art Gallery. A huge thank you to our three speakers throughout the series: Larry Weaner, Sam Quinn, and Emily Garavuso.

Resources from 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>.



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SUNY ESF Satellite Lake Monitoring Pilot Study supported by SLA and the newly commissioned Dr. Robert Werner Research & Education Boat

By: Frank Moses, Executive Director, Skaneateles Lake Association



Photo (furthest to closest): ESF Graduate Students Andre Luo and Victor Igwe, ESF Professor Dr. Bahram Salehi, SLA Intern Nicole Kleinberg, and SLA Volunteer and Member John MacAllister training on water clarity data collection using a Secchi disc.

Along with currently supporting the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) and Syracuse University's effort in "Developing 350-year records of Nutrient Loading and Environmental Change in Skaneateles Lake," SLA and the Dr. Robert Werner Research & Education Boat, (nicknamed "The Bob"), is now host to SUNY-ESF's Satellite Lake Monitoring Study led by Dr. Bahram Salehi.

On Wednesday, July 27th, Dr. Salehi and his team joined SLA to conduct a kickoff training on field data collection that will be used in machine learning efforts so that satellites can help monitor turbidity in Skaneateles Lake. Dr. Salehi and team will also be exploring the utility of drones in helping provide additional data as well. SLA is working with additional volunteers to collect clarity data with Secchi discs at various points around Skaneateles Lake.

"The Bob" hit the waters on June 27th of this year and is already being put to good use for better understanding Skaneateles

Lake to help guide water protection strategies. To learn more about "The Bob" named after the late Dr. Robert Werner who dedicated his time and expertise to SLA since its inception in 1969, please visit: <https://skaneateleslake.org/thebob/>.

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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.skanelakeinfo.org

Important 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

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If you need special assistance, please contact our office at 315-424-9485.*