

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Wave Reviews

Summer 2023 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*

Shorelines Matter: An educational series about Skaneateles Lake shoreline protection & restoration

By: Camille Marcotte, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

Shorelines are the areas along the edge of a lake that connect land and water. They are important for protecting water quality and providing wildlife habitat. Humans enjoy and benefit from shore zones for access to drinking water, recreation, and beauty – and have built homes along shorelines for many years. To help address shoreline concerns and promote natural shorelines, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County is partnering with the Skaneateles Lake Association and Go Native! perennials to offer an educational series focused on shorelines.

The goals of this series are to:

1. Define and highlight the ecological importance of shorelines
2. Explain why homeowners opt for certain shoreline types over others, and offer ways to incentivize natural shorelines
3. Share techniques to naturalize a shoreline and native plants to use for shoreline restoration

Series Details:

- Introducing Shore Zones – Their Ecology and Management held on April 6
- Keeping up with the Joneses – How Neighbors Influence Shoreline Type, June 21 from 7PM - 8:30PM on Zoom
- Naturalizing your Shoreline, July 13 from 7PM - 8:30PM in Skaneateles

Recordings for the virtual programs will be posted to the CCE Onondaga YouTube page at www.youtube.com/@cceonondaga/videos. For more information and to register, visit: www.skanlakeinfo.org/events/shorelines-matter.



Skaneateles shoreline with native plants. Photo courtesy of Frank Moses

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



Skaneateles Nine Element Plan Update

By: Aaron McKeon, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

The Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element (9E) Plan continues to move forward. The 9E Plan is expected to be finalized by March 2024, and a lot of work has to be done between now and then. The Watershed Advisory Committee has continued to meet and discuss the Best Management Practice (BMP) scenario ideas that will be tested using the digital models of the lake and watershed.

The use of digital models is one of the features of the 9E process that make it distinct from a traditional watershed plan. The Skaneateles 9E Plan is fortunate to have some of the most talented modelers in the area onboard, including staff from Ramboll, Upstate Freshwater Institute, and LimnoTech. But a model is only as good as the data that it is built on, which is why special thanks go out to the Onondaga County, Cayuga County, and Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the members of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program (SLWAP) for taking the time to provide data to the modeling team. The SLWAP's Board members met with the modeling team this spring to provide first-hand information on local agricultural practices. This information will help ensure that the watershed model is an accurate representation of what is going on in the Skaneateles Watershed.



Skaneateles Lake. Photo credit: Camille Marcotte

City of Syracuse Aids SLA in Fight Against Invasive Species

By: Frank Moses, Skaneateles Lake Association

Through efforts to build upon a holistic approach to water quality protection, the Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) recently received news from City of Syracuse Mayor Walsh and Water Department Commissioner Joe Awald announcing \$25,000 in support of aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programming.

SLA's commitment in addressing invasive species through the Boat Launch Steward Program, Hemlock Forest Protection, and Milfoil Control represents over a \$300,000 annual investment for Skaneateles Lake. The majority of funding for combatting invasives comes from the SLA Membership Fund with an increase in support from City of Syracuse for preventing any newly introduced harmful invasive species. Additionally, NYSDEC provides \$5,000 for coverage at the state boat launch. Onondaga County administers \$40,000 of Environmental Protection Funds in support of ~\$200,000 SLA Milfoil Control program.

From 2019 - 2022, SLA stewards have surveyed 30,739 watercrafts on Skaneateles Lake in efforts to prevent harmful exotic species like hydrilla entering our waters. Our neighbor, Cayuga Lake, has required millions of dollars to chemically control hydrilla. SLA's 2022 surveys noted that Cayuga Lake is the #1 source of visiting boaters.

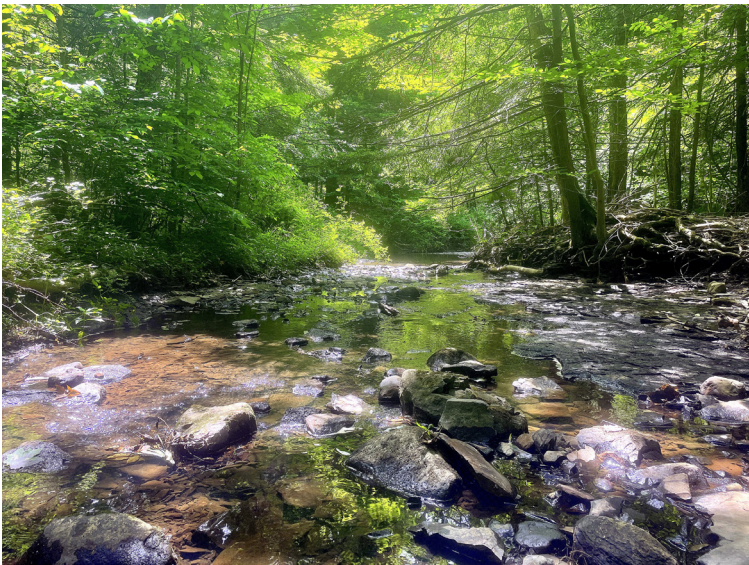
Additionally, with the DEC lifting limits to help reduce Walleye in the lake, SLA needed to mobilize staff earlier in the year to ensure better protection. Along with Hydrilla, SLA is most concerned about an increase in Round Goby populations. Recent studies at ESF have noted that 100% of Round Goby sampled in study carried Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), which can kill trout and many other fish. Round Goby are known to be used as illegal bait for Walleye.

SLA is fortunate to receive community wide support from the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, Town of Skaneateles, NYSDEC, Finger Lakes Institute, CCE, and other partners in the fight against invasives. Thanks to all in doing their part to keep Skaneateles Lake Clear & Pure while ensuring boats are "Clean, Drained, and Dry"!

DEC and Finger Lakes Land Trust Announce New 86-Acre Conservation Easement to Protect Skaneateles Lake Water Quality

State's Water Quality Improvement Project Funding Helps Protect Drinking Water Sources

By: DEC and Finger Lakes Land Trust



Shotwell Brook. Photo credits: Matt Champlin (top) and Amy Olney (bottom)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) announced the permanent protection of 86 acres in the Skaneateles Lake watershed through the use of a conservation easement. Protection of the property will safeguard the drinking water supply for the City of Syracuse and neighboring communities. DEC's Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program awarded FLLT \$1.69 million to support four source water protection projects, including the easement.

“Completion of this project is a significant win for Skaneateles Lake and the drinking water supply for the City of Syracuse,” said Finger Lakes Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. “The conservation easement will provide for enhanced buffers to the lake and we are grateful to the landowners and New York State for their support and partnership.”

Owned by Pat and Jessica Danial, Fox Run Farm contains 2,070 feet along Shotwell Brook, which drains to Skaneateles Lake, as well as 1,430 feet along an unnamed tributary. The easement includes an 18-acre environmental protection zone that will buffer the two streams and filter potential contaminants from entering nearby Skaneateles Lake.

“We’re excited to announce our support for the Finger Lakes Land Trust’s hard work in protecting the Skaneateles Lake watershed,” said landowner Pat Danial. “Through the placement of a conservation easement on our farm, we’re taking another small step towards ensuring the long-term health and vibrancy of the area. As members of the local community, we

feel a deep responsibility to preserve the natural beauty of our lake and to safeguard its resources for future generations.”

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements that permanently limit future land use in order to protect the land's conservation value. Lands subject to conservation easements remain in private ownership, on local tax rolls, and available for traditional uses such as farming and hunting.

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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.*