

Newsletter "Listen to the Lake" March 2021

KLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020

Membership renewal forms for 2021 were sent out to arrive about March 1, 2020. To renew, you may return to the KLA office the enclosed form with your check or credit card info. You may also **renew on-line at our website** (www.keukalakeassociation.org) with your credit card. Whichever way you choose to renew, please include any up-dated information. Also you may select to receive our monthly e-newsletter and e-announcements and choose to receive our quarterly newsletter by e-mail, regular mail or both. We look forward to your 2021 support to help us maintain our mission.

Please let the KLA Office know if you do <u>not</u> receive this annual renewal.

If you renewed in Feb. 2021 you may get a letter anyway as the address list had been already sent to the printers, so no need to respond. If you already renewed after Dec. 1, 2020, you are fine for 2021.



Sugar Creek-Jonah Simmons-April 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT— RAY DELL

As the ice retreats back to the north shores, the days get longer and warmer, Keuka starts to wake from its short winter nap. Sounds like a Christmas story but 2021 is here, 2020 is behind us and, yes, the lake is warming and the snow is almost gone.

Warm days and cool nights have regulated the snowmelt and the lake level is well within the recommended level for March. April showers bring May flowers and higher lake levels. Please be aware of the lake level by checking our website for the latest lake level readings. (See our website's lake level chart on page 16 in this newsletter.)

The KLA Board of Directors has continued to hold both regular and special meetings via ZOOM, with local and state agencies throughout the cold winter months to ensure our organization's programs are ready when Keuka opens in May. Many new ideas and programs will be detailed throughout this newsletter and as we move forward in the upcoming months.

It's never too soon to plan for a great day of golf at Lakeside Country Club on July 12, 2021 for our 2nd annual Golf Tournament to support your KLA. Hope to see you there.

If golf is not your game, but you want to help support the KLA, our Water Quality team is always looking for volunteers to assist with Harmful Algae Blooms reporting and Stream Monitoring. Minimal time is required and it is a great way to meet other Keuka area residents.

I must compliment the entire Board of Directors for their tireless efforts over the past several months. Many complex issues have been thoroughly evaluated, analyzed, and implemented by the Board to produce an agenda that is in line with our mission to protect and preserve this beautiful lake.

See you at the lake very soon! Ray

The 9E Plan—Why a Seneca- Keuka Watershed Partner- ship?6-7 New/Returning Members7	Membership Committee

KLA Takes Action to Control Starry Stonewort

Maria Hudson, KLA VP & Water Quality Committee Chair



Last August starry stonewort (SSW) was found to have migrated from the inlet Sugar Creek in Branchport to the lake itself! This very dangerous aquatic invasive species spreads rapidly and creates dense mats that pose a threat to natural habitats, biodiversity and native species population stability in the Keuka Lake watershed. Mats of SSW reduce and/or destroy spawning grounds, choke out the habitat that benthic invertebrates, gamefish and their prey rely on for survival, hamper species movement between environments, feeding, and the balance of the aquatic ecosystem. The replacement of native macrophytes by SSW destabilizes the creek bed and shoreline making it susceptible to erosion and flooding bringing silt and pollutants into the lake. With 60 miles of shoreline and depths conducive to SSW there is a critical need to prevent and monitor the spread of this invasive plant.

On December 5, 2020, a the KLA submitted a grant proposal through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for \$50,000.00 over two years. The proposal was written by a special KLA "task force" who researched and came up with the current best management practices and costs involved. We will find in out March if we are awarded the grant. In any case, the KLA is committed to reducing and controlling the spread of SSW in Keuka Lake. The plan employs an awareness campaign and physical removal. Even with the grant, we will be calling upon our own financial resources, in kind contributions and volunteers to get the job done this summer and in the future. We have begun coordinating with the various NYS agencies to obtain the permits needed in a timely fashion and any advice they may offer. Here is what we hope to implement starting this summer late June to early July:

Initially, rake toss surveys will identify SSW infestations and other native and invasive species in Sugar Creek and in the lake. The survey will also record GPS coordinates, photograph and describe the sites. Surveys will continue after treatment to measure the effectiveness of the procedures and necessity of re-treatment. A public awareness campaign will be launched to with educational and warning signage describing the dangers of spreading SSW. "Clean, Drain, Dry" signs will be placed at boat launches. Watercraft Stewards will perform inspections for SSW and other invasives on boats and trailers during the heavy traffic season. Approved warning signs/buoys will be placed on or near the sites of SSW infestations to prohibit boating, fishing or swimming. Once the infestations are identified and documented, Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) will be employed to harvest SSW in the lake and stream with little disturbance to soft sediments, preventing spread of SSW by fragmentation and bulbils. Harvest will hopefully be performed in late June to early July when SSW is visibly growing but before the start of heavy boating traffic. In addition, small benthic mats will be installed on the lake bottom in an infested area to determine their effectiveness at reducing or eradicating SSW. After DASH has reduced the size and biomass of the infestation, any new growth of SSW could be targeted with permitted algaecide treatment. Early season growth, especially in the stream could also be targeted. Finally, the amount of SSW (and other aquatic species) harvested will be analyzed from year to year to monitor project success. Of course, SSW monitoring will also be included in other KLA sponsored monitoring programs on the lake and streams.

As we stated in our grant application, "The anticipated benefits (of this plan) are to protect native species and habitat, to preserve Keuka Lake's AA-TS water quality rating, prevent loss of recreational uses i.e. fishing, swimming and boating, to avoid negative economic impacts, and prevent SSW spread throughout the water-shed and nearby water."







SSW Removal 2020—"Hand Pulling" in Sugar Creek and machine "harvesting" in the Keuka Outlet

NAVIGATION & RECREATION—STEVE HICKS

Test your knowledge....True or False?



- 1. Only persons 18 years old and older are required to have a fishing license.
- 2. New York State law requires boats on Keuka to travel at 5 MPH or less only within 100 feet of moored boats, floats, dock ends or undeveloped shore-line.
- 3. Small boats (less than 16 feet long) with or without a motor (electric or fuel-driven) do not have to be registered with New York State.
- 4. Only those under the age of 21 operating or riding on a personal watercraft (Jet Ski, Wave Runner, or similar craft) must wear a life jacket.

Answers AT END OF ARTICLE

Boater Safety Course Information:

New York State requires certain boat operators to have a boating safety certificate. New York and most other states do *not* require a "license" to operate your personal recreational boat.

New York State provides boating safety certificates to those people who successfully complete a New York State Safe Boating Classroom Course. New York State also recognizes the safety certificates issued by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the US Power Squadron and the US Powerboating. Boating Safety Certificates from several online course providers are approved for New York State residents.

Boating Safety certificates issued in other states

If you are a New York resident, you will need to have a NYS boating safety certificate; if you are from out-of-state, New York recognizes the boating safety certificate issued by your home state.

Renting a boat

If you are at least 18 years old, you may rent without completing a course. The boat rental operator should demonstrate how to properly use the boat before renting it however. Persons under the age of 18 may only rent a motorboat if they hold a safety certificate.

Operators of sailboats, kayaks, standup paddleboards, rowboats, canoes and any other watercraft without a motor are not required to have a boating safety certificate to be on the water. However, it is always a good idea to take a boating course.

Below is a chart summarizing the age requirements as to when a boating safety certificate is required.

Persons Required to Complete a Safety Course

If you were born

on or after:

The law in New York requires the following people to have a boating safety certificate:

 Operators of a motorboat must be at least 10 years of age and get a boating safety certificate by 2025. Starting in 2020, the phase-in period for this requirement is as follows:

You will need a boating safety certificate when

January 1, 1993 2020
January 1, 1988 2022
January 1, 1983 2023
January 1, 1978 2024

All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025

 PWC operators must be at least 14 years of age and either hold a boating safety certificate or be accompanied by someone over 18 years of age who is the holder of a boating safety certificate.

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N&R Cont. from pg. 3

True or False---All FALSE!!!

Persons <u>16 years</u> old and older are required to have a fishing license, except on the 2021 "Free Fishing Days"- June 26-27 (Free Fishing Weekend), September 25 (National Hunting and Fishing Day) and November 11 (Veterans Day) have been designated as Free Fishing Days. During these days, anyone can fish the fresh waters of NY and no license is required.

Fishing licenses are available instantly on-line and on smart phones via https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb/loginregister.htm or call 1-866-933-2257.

New York State law requires boats on Keuka to travel at 5 MPH **or less within 200 feet** of moored boats, floats, dock ends or undeveloped shore-line. This is different than most other lakes in NYS. *Please pass the word on to your friends, renters and neighbors...*

Watercraft without a motor need not be registered. However, if you use a motor (electric or fuel-driven) **no matter how small the craft or the motor**, you <u>must register</u> your boat.

Anyone and everyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft (Jet Ski, Wave Runner, or similar craft) must wear a USCG approved PFD.

Planting Trees Along Riparian Buffers for Watershed Protection – Got Trees?

by Laura Bailey, Natural Resources Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

One of the lake-friendly living practices encouraged in KLA's <u>Lake-Friendly Living Guide for Home-owners</u> is to consider the ecosystem services provided by a natural shoreline. Restoring the shoreline of a lake or waterbody with native plants will restore ecosystem services including food and shelter for local wildlife, shade for fish and wildlife, soil stabilization and reduced erosion, filtration of pollutants and sediments, and the absorption of excess nutrients.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently opened the application period for the Trees for Tribs Buffer in a Bag Program. This program is a great opportunity for qualifying private and public landowners to receive a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings for planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, and improve wildlife habitat.

To qualify, landowners must:

Have property in NYS with at least 50 feet that borders a stream, river, or lake, and provide photos or a map of the planting location.

Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply to continue to build their riparian buffer.

Applicants are eligible for one bag of 25 seedlings and recipients are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why Should You Restore Your Shoreline to A More Natural State? Riparian buffers are vegetated areas on either side of a waterbody or watercourse. Buffers create a space between the water and upland areas and when functioning properly, can help protect waterbodies from impacts of human activity. Maintaining healthy riparian buffers on your property can help to absorb and slow flood waters, improve stream health and water quality by slowing runoff, prevent soil erosion, filter pollution, contribute nutrients to the food chain through leaf litter, shade streams to keep waters cool, and provide woody debris for in-stream habitat.

How To Create A Natural Shoreline: A healthy shoreline or riparian buffer should have a variety of species of native trees, shrubs, and grasses and receive minimal human disturbance. Buffers that are at least 100 feet wide provide the minimum protection for water quality and stream protection. As the width of the buffer continues to increase, so does the level of stream protection and wildlife habitat. A diversity of plant species can help increase resiliency to severe weather (drought or storms), reduce disturbance by deer, rodents, and invasive species or pests. Characteristics of an unhealthy riparian buffer include lack of vegetation or vegetation with shallow roots systems, hardened shorelines, pavement or other impervious surfaces, invasive species, and the presence of grazing animals.

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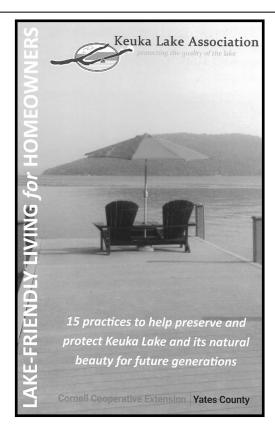
PLANTING TREES—CONT.

To promote or create healthy riparian buffers on your property, consider allowing native trees, shrubs, and vegetation to grow. If planting in these areas, select native species well suited for riparian areas. It's also important to understand how water naturally flows across your property. Water directs its course to the contours of the landscape and has a natural tendency to meander. Meandering helps slow water flow, reducing erosion and flooding potential. When waterways are moved or straightened, water will inherently try to return to its natural course. During large storm events, this can cause damage to the surrounding environment and result in flooded yards, roads, and homes. To mitigate this, alteration of naturally meandering waterways on your property should be avoided.

Trees, branches, and stumps are natural and important parts of healthy riparian areas and stream systems. Plant debris forms the foundation of the aquatic ecosystem food chain, increases channel roughness, and reduces potential of flood damage by slowing floodwaters. If there is no risk to infrastructure damage, then natural materials, woody debris, limbs, and fallen trees stabilized within a stream or along a bank or shoreline can generally be left alone. However, if debris is likely to become dislodged and block bridge and culvert openings, impacting flow and leading to diversion of streams and bank erosion or causing damage to infrastructure, it should be removed. Additionally, lakes and waterways should not be used for dumping leaves and yard waste. If you left your leaves for insects and wildlife this winter and are going to be raking this spring, chose lake-friendly options such as composting, mulching, or municipal pick-up for leaf and plant matter. For more information and ideas on lake-friendly leaf clean-up, visit DEC's webpage, What to Do with Fall Leaves: https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/46613.html

To take advantage of NYSDEC's Buffer in a Bag Program and start the process of restoring your shoreline to a more natural state, visit DEC's website for more information about the application process and requirements. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on April 12th. Contact treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov with questions and visit Trees for Tribs Program on DEC's website to learn more.

Want the KLA's Lake-Friendly Living Guide booklet? Contact CCE Yates, Natural Resources Educator, Laura Bailey at lb698@cornell.edu to request a copy or call (315) 536-5123 x4127. The KLA Office can also provide copies.





LAKE LEVEL—WAYNE HAND

Through at least most of February, the lake level continues to be in the middle of the objectives range. Since almost the beginning of the year, the level, and the regulated outflow through the gates, has been unchanged. With temperatures remaining below freezing during this period, very little of the recent precipitation has ended up in the lake, and still remains as ice and snow in the watershed. The minimum required outflow for the Penn Yan wastewater plant dilution has basically equaled mother nature's inflow. However, weather forecasts indicate that we will begin to see melting temperatures the last week of February, so the lake level should then begin to rise also. Accordingly, the gate settings will then be adjusted to maintain the lake level close to the maximum objective, as the level continues its slow planned rise over the next couple of months toward the desired summer level. (See lake level chart on pg. 5)

Typical for recent years, most of the lake has remained ice free, at least thus far. Hopefully, the warmer temperatures will result in a minimum of ice damage to shoreline assets this year. Keep your fingers crossed.

THE 9E PLAN—WHY A SENECA-KEUKA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP?





Steve Butchko-KWIC, Mark Morris-KLA and Colby Petersen-KL Watershed Mgr.

The Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element plan will lead to improvements in water quality that restore natural ecosystems and protect human health, thereby maximizing the economic, social and cultural value of these threatened resources. The means for achieving this will ensure preservation and enhancement of the agricultural vitality of the region as well as other highly valued natural resources that together define the character of the landscape and community.

Update: Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership 9 Element Plan Covering: "Note from the Lake Specialists" and "Watershed Planning-9E Action Notice"

This was taken from the 12.20 Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership Newsletter which can be seen at: seneca-keuka-watershed-partnership-december-newsletter.pdf

Seneca Keuka Watershed Partnership

Note from the lake specialists:

As we move through fall and into winter most lakes go through a period of pronounced change. During the summer months a lake will become stratified and as the upper layer cools in late fall, it will ultimately become denser than the layer below at which point the upper and lower layers begin to mix or "turnover". This process is critically important as it distributes oxygen and nutrients throughout the water column and in turn allows aquatic life to survive. Once winter is upon us differences among lakes become increasingly pronounced with the most obvious being between those that ice-over and those that do not. For those that do, ice-over eliminates the exchange of oxygen from the atmosphere and blocks out sunlight thus eliminating most photosynthetic activity. At this point oxygen levels in the lake begin to decline. Decline too far and the consequences are obviously grim. Here on Keuka and Seneca lakes these seasonal variations are less pronounced as the lakes' immense size and depth limit the severity of turnover and freezing. Instead, winter is a period of reset and renewal as biological processes slow down and dissolved oxygen levels rise due to cold water holding more oxygen than warm water. So, if you enjoy crystal clear waters and an air of stillness, you might find a winter's day out on the water surprisingly rejuvenating for both the Lake and yourself alike.

Ian Smith
Seneca Watershed Steward
ismith@hws.edu
601 South Main St
Geneva, NY 14456

Colby Petersen Keuka Lake Manager colby@ycsoilwater.com 417 Liberty St Penn Yan, NY 14527

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Watershed Planning

In order to sustain our watershed, much of it will depend on planning and applying actions to maintain and continue to improve, protect, and preserve our watershed.

9E Action Notice

As we enter a new year, we enter the next phase in developing the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan (9E). Thus far the project team has been building stakeholder networks and answering the questions:

Where are we now?

Where are we heading?

Where do we want to get to?

As we move into 2021 we will have developed the tools to begin answering the final and most challenging question in this planning process:

How do we get to where we want to be?

The watershed model will provide a quantitative framework to evaluate impacts of various restoration and protection measures. However, a 9E Plan is a community-driven effort. For the plan to be successful, ideas for what's desirable and acceptable to watershed residents, farms, businesses, and municipalities will come from the community. Therefore, over the next several months we will be looking for direct input on projects that you want to see implemented around the watershed. Whether it is a capital construction project, a planning project or an educational project... as long as it is tangentially related to improving water quality, we will want to make sure it is incorporated into the 9E Plan. At this point we just want to set the stage but in the March newsletter we will share a project template that you can discuss with your peers and capture project ideas. You will also be able to share your thoughts at our next public outreach session. Stay tuned!

THE KLA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS:

MAUREEN & ROGER ACKERMAN-2421 BLUE SPRUCE LANE	DAVE & LYNN MEANEY-652 ELR
	JILL & ANTHONY MAIOLA-419 ELR
KAREN & WALT ATKISON~454 WLR	
	MICHAEL & JUDY MASTERS-11712 ELR
JIM & BARBARA BURNS~10178 ELR	
	MARCIA & BYRON MILLER-OFF-LAKE
STEPHEN & STEPHANIE COHEN-618 ELR	
PATRICK FLYNN—ARCHITECT. CORNING	FRANK MONTES & KIRSTIN SECHLER- 15310 WLR
PATRICIA GORMAN-14126 KVR	SARAH & COLIN ROBINSON-2567 RTE 54A
LAURA HUNT & GARY HILL-12231 ELR	DAVID SHAFER-921 ELR
EACKA HOW & GAR! HIEE 12231 EEK	DRVID SHALL 721 LEN
MARY-CLAIRE KREBS-13279 BLUFFERS DR	CRAIG SHOEMAKER- 9299 SPRUCE RD
DAVID & FRONV KINZ-2547 DTF 544	DAVID 9 IODI WALKED-IOZI ELD
DAVID & EBONY KUNZ-2567 RTE 54A	DAVID & JODI WALKER-1031 ELR

KLA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE & GOLF TOURNAMENT INFO 2021 Spring Membership Campaign



Our favorite time of year is now upon us as spring begins to arrive in western New York. It is a glorious time to enjoy nature on display at our beautiful Keuka Lake. My job at the KLA is to alert you that our membership drive is underway, and you should see that KLA envelope in your mailbox by March. We fully recognize there are a lot of beneficial causes that need your support especially after such a challenging past year. My goal here is to share some of the great work being done by both KLA leadership and members of the board as we work to protect this gem we call Keuka. First, I want to note that our leadership for the past 12 years has been just fantastic. Bill Laffin, Dennis Carlson, and now Ray Dell have led the KLA with both sound financial management, and true leading edge lake protection efforts that put the KLA in a high position in comparison to other lake associations. It is a true joy to work with these people.

KLA plays a leading role in the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC), an inter-municipal agreement among the eight municipalities surrounding Keuka Lake that provides comprehensive planning for uniform regulation of waste-water (septic) management and assist with uniform enforcement of those regulations within the participating municipalities.

KLA has a model Navigation and Recreation group that works very closely with Yates and Steuben County Sheriff Associations insuring that lake residents are informed of all safety efforts and lake regulations.

As I am sure you are aware, our Invasive Species task force has been kept very busy over the past months trying to combat Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB's) and now the invasion of Starry Stonewort (SSW) in the north end of the Branchport finger of the lake and in the Outlet. We are in the midst of developing remedies and this would be where your support is most needed. The team completed an exhaustive federal grant request in December, and is working closely with the NYS DEC for solutions to this aggressive plant.

This is just an example of our work as you consider a donation and membership for the 2021 campaign. Enjoy the lake and I know you will be watching our lake level meter as we continue through spring. Lots of snow to melt.



2ND ANNUAL KLA & LCC GOLF TOURNAMENT 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021



9 AM REGISTRATION IO AM SHOTGUN START \$100/PERSON \$400/TEAM

INCLUDES: TEE PRIZES, LUNCH, DRINKS ON COURSE, PRIZES FOLLOWING GOLF & MORE HOLE-IN-ONE ON #9 WINS A BOAT!!

NAME & PHONE NUMBER:

1		
2		
3	-	
4		

CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB AND MAILED TO PO BOX 381, PENN YAN,
NY 14527. INDICATE "KLA-LCC" ON YOUR CHECK.
CORPORATE AND PERSONAL HOLE SPONSORS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE KEUKA LAKE ASSOCIATION AND LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB.



A D D L LO A T LO A L

2021 ALEXANDER & ESTHER WAHLIG KEUKA LAKE WATERSHED SCHOLARSHIP

The goal of this scholarship, sponsored by the Keuka Lake Association, is to assist a graduating senior high school student who is planning to enroll in a four year program (may include a two year college with plans to transfer to a four year institution) and who is planning on pursuing a career in general environmental sciences or limnology or water quality/watershed management.

Eligible applicants include senior students graduating from high schools in the Keuka Lake Watershed, including Haverling Central School, Dundee Central School, Penn Yan Academy, Prattsburgh Central School, Hammondsport Central School or senior students whose parents are Keuka Lake Association members.

The one-time \$1000 scholarship will be awarded in one installment upon satisfactory completion of the first

semester and submission of a transcript sent to the Keuka Lake Association office for review by the committee.

The selection committee is composed of five members appointed by the Keuka Lake Association and will meet in April of the student's graduating year. The committee must receive application forms by April fifteenth of the graduating year. By June first the committee will send the selected recipient a letter and forward a copy to the guidance department of the appropriate school.

Students should submit an application for the scholar-ship to the Keuka Lake Association by mail to P. O. Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527. The application must include a letter of recommendation from one of the applicant's teachers and a 250 to 300 word essay describing the student's interest in his or her selected field of study and how the student plans to apply that knowledge either in a future career or for enriching his/her appreciation in the environmental sciences or water quality/watershed management.

Keuka Lake Association, PO Box 35, Penn Yan, New York 14527 Ph. 315-694-7324 info@keukalakeassoc.org

Alexander & Esther Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship Application

The goal of this scholarship, sponsored by the Keuka Lake Association, is to assist a graduating high school student who is planning to enroll in a four year program (may include a two year college with plans to transfer to a four year institution) and who is planning on pursuing a career in general environmental sciences or limnology or water quality/watershed management.

Eligible applicants include students graduating from high schools in the Keuka Lake Watershed, including Haverling Central School, Dundee Central School, Penn Yan Academy, Prattsburgh Central School, Hammondsport Central School or senior students whose parents are Keuka Lake Association members.

The one-time \$1000 scholarship will be awarded in one installment upon satisfactory completion of the first semester and submission of a transcript sent to the Keuka Lake Association office for review by the committee.

The selection committee is composed of members appointed by the Keuka Lake Association. The committee must receive application forms by April 22th of the graduating year. In June, the committee will send the selected recipient a letter and forward a copy to the guidance department of the appropriate school.

Students should submit an application for the scholarship to the Keuka Lake Association by April 22, 2020 either by mail (P.O. Box 35, Penn Yan, New York 14527) or electronically to info@keukalakeassoc.org.

The application must include a letter of recommendation from one of the applicant's teachers and a 250 to 300 word essay describing the student's interest in his or her selected field of study and how the student plans to apply that knowledge either in a future career or for enriching his/her appreciation in the environmental sciences or water quality/ watershed management.

APPLICATION			
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	
Address	Town or City State	Zip Code	
Phone	E-mail Address		
Planned Major	College or University	High School Average	

Critter Corner Returns! -- David deCalesta

Whither the Leech?



Those of us who waded in ponds, streams, and shallow edges of lakes (and who didn't?) can remember our revulsion at finding leeches attached to our legs and the quick application of salt to make them drop off. A neighbor friend recently asked me, "What happened to the leeches in Keuka Lake." He remembered finding them on his legs as a kid when he waded in Keuka Lake in the 50s. And I recalled that in all our summer rentings on Keuka in the 90s, and living in our place on the lake 22002-2014 that we never had any leeches, not even when our toddler grandkids spent hours laughing and splashing in shallow water along the shoreline. So, what happened to them? I found nothing in searching the scientific literature, so I took to speculating.

Global warming? Nope, Keuka's water temperatures have not noticeably increased since the 60s. Acid deposition? Nope, Scientists tell us leeches are not affected by that and besides, Keuka is not an acidified lake.

Increased predation by the pan fish (bluegills, sunfish, bass, perch, rock bass and smallmouth bass)? Fishing pressure may have decreased somewhat after the late 60s, but not enough to have resulted in a population explosion of pan fish populations and decimation of leeches, a key pan fish prey item. Not likely.

Introduction of the round goby in Keuka Lake? Not likely, as this exotic fish species, which would prey on leeches, did not show up in Keuka Lake until well after the loss of leeches. Zebra mussels? They did invade Keuka around the time the leeches disappeared — did they

cause population decline by eating leech eggs? Again, no. Zebra mussels feed on tiny zooplankton many times smaller than leech eggs.

Well then, what?

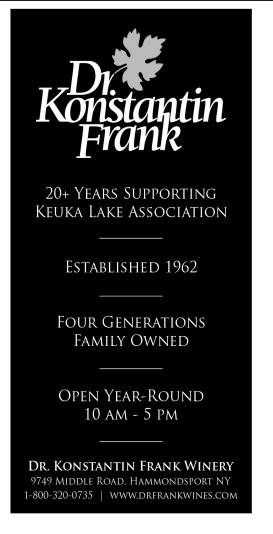
About the time my friend began noticing the lack of leeches, winter water level in Keuka Lake began to be controlled annually to reduce the hazards of spring flooding. Late fall drawn down of water level resulted in exposure of the shallow water edge, often exposing 5 or more feet of shallow shoreline to freezing temperatures. Leeches hibernate in winter in the muck in shallow shorelines. Although some leech species can survive freezing in water, exposure to freezing temperatures in muck may be different. A common remedy offered to people with leech infestations in small ponds is to expose the muck at the pond's edge to freezing over winter, which kills the leeches.

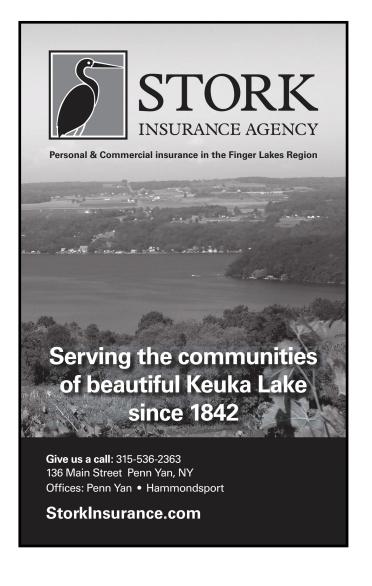
So – the annual draw down of water level in Keuka Lake likely is the reason there are zero to few leeches – they are killed over winter by freezing in the muck at the lake's edge.

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Richard I. & Bonnie B. Curbeau

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- ⇒ 18 holes of championship golf with gorgeous scenic lake views
- ⇒ Watered fairways & 6 tee locations
- ⇒ For practice: driving range, putting & chipping greens
- ⇒ We welcome non-member greens fee players
- ⇒ A variety of social activities are always available!
- ⇒ Excellent restaurant!



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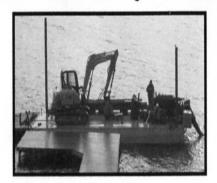
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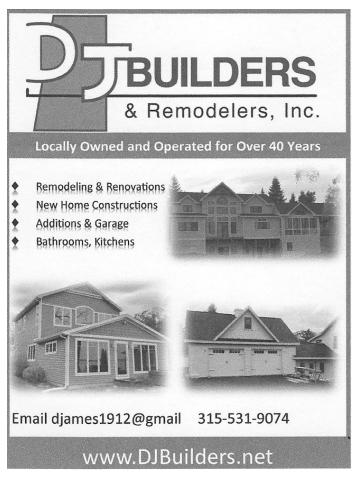


www.knappandschlappi.com

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To access this chart: Go to our website: www.keukalakeassociation.org, click on "Current Lake Level". You can also find the current water temperature. Click on "Lake Temperature". On March 4th it was a chilly 37 degrees!

2021

3/421

LEVEL

The KLA urges you to support our business members and newsletter advertisers. If you would like further information concerning our business members, please contact the KLA Office or visit our website at www.keukalakeassoc.org to find Business Member listings and links to their websites. New advertisers/business members in italics *Sponsor Level ** Patron Level ** Guardian Level • Business/Personal

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Bailey

Commonwealth Financial Group—Timothy Pease

Lyons National Bank—Penn Yan*

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The Cottages on Keuka-Walter & Kim Colley

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Please make checks payable to the Keuka Lake Association and send completed order to PO Box 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527.	
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Are your neighbors members of the KLA? Great Gift Idea!!

Whether they live on the lake or anywhere within the watershed, they have an interest in the future health and viability of Keuka Lake. Why not ask them if they are members...and encourage them to join? Why not give a KLA membership as a gift? Applications are also available on our website.

KLA DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

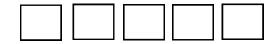
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MEMBERSHIP AND KLA OFFICE INFORMATION

MEMBER APPLICATION Membership year runs from April1-March 31		
NEW RENEWAL (See membership expiration date On your address label.) NAME(S)		
MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY, STATE, ZIP		
PHONE NUMBER		
E-MAILADDRESSADDRESS2		
KEUKA ADDRESS		
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Business/Personal - \$60 Credit Card –Enter # belo)W	
Basic - \$40 Total enclosed \$		
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Sponsor – \$100 Join/Renew on line on our		
Patron – \$150 website: www.keukalakeassoc.org		
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Expiration Date://_ Signature:		
Mail application and payment to: Keuka Lake Association, P.O. Box 35 , Yan, NY 14527	Penn	

KEUKA LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The KLA office is located at 142 Main St, in Penn Yan, the corner of Main & Maiden Lane. Mail to PO 35, Penn Yan, NY 14527. The office is usually open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, but with the current situation, it is not always consistent. You can contact the office either by phone: 315-694-7324 (answering machine attached) or email: info@keukalakeassoc.org.

Margo G. McTaggart, KLA Administrative Assistant

ADVERTISING IN THE KLA NEWSLETTER

The advertising section of the KLA newsletter is provided as a service to KLA members only. The ads are restricted to 1/4 page, to fit into a 3 3/4 by 4 3/4 space. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to contact the KLA office with a request for ad space in an upcoming issue and send a print ready ad. The deadline for the March 2021 issue is February 1st and will be accepted in the order submitted. However, in an attempt to present an interesting diversity of ads, the KLA editorial staff reserves the right to limit the number of any specific type of ad in any given issue. KLA also reserves the right to decline acceptance of an ad deemed inappropriate for the publication. Ad ost for each issue is \$50. Thank you to all of the KLA members who have advertised with us.

KLA MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

March 1 - Dues renewal notices mailed.

December - Last newsletter for those who have not renewed. Check the expiration date on your address label.

December - Membership for **NEW** members & current members who join after Dec.1 will be extended through the next membership year: April-March

For future area boater safety courses, consult the following websites:

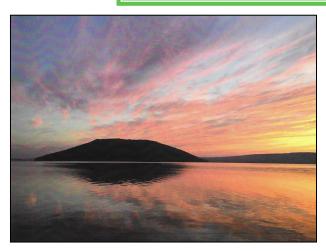
www.usps.org (Power Squadron) www.uscgaux.org (Coast Guard)

http://www.yatescounty.org/display_page.asp?pID=521.http://www.steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=557

(local Sheriffs' Depts.)

Keuka Lake Association, Inc. PO Box 35 Penn Yan, NY 14527

The KLA's mission is to preserve and protect Keuka Lake and its natural beauty for future generations.



Bluff Sunset—Pamela Howitt—March 2021



Taking a Break-Chris Brooks-May 2021

