



**2015 Annual Report**  
Presented at the Member Meeting  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016



*"Water links us to our neighbor in a way more profound and complex than any other."  
-John Thorson*

# Inaugural May Member Meeting Agenda

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. 4 P.M. Stow, New York.

Presentation of the 2015 Annual Report

Board of Directors Election

Open Floor - Membership

## Founding Members

- Chautauqua - Cattaraugus Board of Realtors
- Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
- Chautauqua County Government
- Chautauqua Institution
- Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau
- Chautauqua Lake Association
- Chautauqua Lake Fishing Association
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership
- Chautauqua Property Owners Association
- Chautauqua Utility District
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- Cummins Foundation
- Holmberg Foundation
- Jamestown Audubon Society
- Jamestown Board of Public Utilities
- The Lenna Foundation
- Mayville - Chautauqua Community Chamber of Commerce
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - Allegany Region
- North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District
- Roger Tory Peterson Institute
- South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District
- Town of Busti
- Town of Chautauqua
- Town of Ellery
- Town of Ellicott
- Town of North Harmony
- Village of Bemus Point
- Village of Celoron
- Village of Lakewood
- Village of Mayville

## History and Mission

The Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) is the natural evolution of the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC). Since its inception in 2005 and pursuant to its core mission, the CLMC was a major contributor to the development of the *Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan* and initiated work on the *Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte Management Strategy*, which sets forth specific recommendations for the proper management of our precious natural resources. The CLMC was an advisory committee to the Chautauqua County legislature and having accomplished its core mission, it was determined that the CLMC would sunset in 2014 in order to evolve into a new Alliance.

The Alliance framework was developed through a series of stakeholder meetings, significant research, and forward-thinking innovation. It was established in order to secure funding to implement the recommendations determined under the lake and watershed plans. The Alliance also aims to strengthen existing relationships among member organizations already engaged in important lake and watershed activities, and to promote a comprehensive and coordinated effort to ensure the sustained health, ecology, and uses of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed.

This Alliance is for the benefit of all Chautauqua Lake and watershed stakeholders and our primary objective is to collaborate and coordinate locally in order to secure State and Federal funds (as well as funds from other sources outside the County) for Alliance Members and Member Projects via grant writing and leveraging local dollars. The Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization located in Chautauqua County, New York.

Our mission:

The Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, working in collaboration with lake and watershed-related organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders, will promote and facilitate implementation of recommendations from the *Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan* and the *Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte Management Strategy* by prioritizing projects, securing funding and allocating resources.

By working in collaboration with as many stakeholders as possible, we deepen our collective focus, strength, and leveraging capabilities, for the benefit of Chautauqua Lake, its watershed, and ultimately our Community.

## Timeline of Achievements

- ❖ **August 2014:** Articles of Incorporation are filed.
- ❖ **November 2014:** Initial meeting of the Interim Board.
- ❖ **January 2015:** IRS grants 501(c)3 non-profit designation.
- ❖ **February 2015:** Executive Director is hired.
- ❖ **April 2015:** Interim Board approves the Membership Dues & Structure.
- ❖ **May - June 2015:** Inaugural Membership Drive results in 31 founding members.
- ❖ **June 2015:** Transitioned unexpended CLMC funds to County supported Alliance Match Fund as leverage to secure outside grant funding opportunities.
- ❖ **June - July 2015:** Alliance leads submission of first seven collaborative grant applications, six of which are via the New York State (NYS) Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for stream bank stabilization projects located along six different tributaries in the Chautauqua Lake watershed to reduce sediment and nutrient loads entering the lake.
- ❖ **August - September 2015:** Members nominate and elect permanent Board of Directors.
- ❖ **November 2015:** Establish Scientific Review & Advisory Committee.
- ❖ **December 2015:** Announcement of New York State CFA awards whereby funding was secured for all six stream bank stabilization projects via NYS Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Grants which are administered by the NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) and financed through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. Leveraged \$358k local funding and in-kind services to bring in over \$1 million in state funding to Chautauqua County, for a total of over \$1.4 million of new environmental investment in the Chautauqua Lake watershed. Implementation partners in addition to the Alliance are Chautauqua County, Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.

## **Board of Directors**

### **Interim Board: September 2014 - September 2015**

Pierre Chagnon - Interim Chair

Lyle Hajdu - Interim Vice-Chair

Linda Barber - Interim Secretary

Don Emhardt - Interim Treasurer

Marty Bova

Mark Geise

Cecil Miller

Randy Sweeney

Tad Wright

### **Member elected Board: September - December 2015**

Linda Barber - Chair

Don Emhardt - Vice-Chair

David Shepherd - Secretary

Pierre Chagnon - Treasurer

Sally Carlson

Vince Horrigan

David Spann

Ken Shearer

David Wesp

## Special Recognitions

The Alliance wishes to recognize that we as a community continually stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Special appreciation to all those listed below and to the many more who remain unnamed.

**CLMC participants:** Linda Barber, Chuck Battaglia, Bill Boria, Craig Butler, Sally Carlson, Pierre Chagnon, Doug Champ, Jane Conroe, Rick Constantino, Fred Crosscut, Bill Daily, Jeff Diers, Tom Erlandson, Mark Geise, Tom Geisler, Lyle Hajdu, Vince Horrigan, John Jablonski, Joe Johnson, Don McCord , Wade Morse, Debbie Naybor, Andrew Nixon, Karen Rine, Kevin Sanvidge, Kim Sherwood, Mark Stow, Art Webster, Dave Wilson, Tad Wright and Chris Yates

**Leading the evolution from CLMC to an Alliance:** Linda Barber, Pierre Chagnon, Don Emhardt, Mark Geise, Lyle Hajdu, Vince Horrigan, Don McCord, Dave McCoy, Randy Sweeney and Tad Wright.

**Funders:** The Lenna Foundation, Ralph C Sheldon Foundation and Chautauqua County.