



Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ALLIANCE RECOGNIZES MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER ON
CHAUTAUQUA LAKE IN 2021**

The Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance wishes to recognize the efforts of our Members engaged in a combined lake maintenance program in 2021 to help sustain Chautauqua Lake as an economically and environmentally healthy resource for its myriad uses and users. Since May, Alliance Members have been hard at work to clean up debris and manage invasive plants and nuisance levels of other aquatic vegetation, which at times can negatively impact the usability of portions of Chautauqua Lake. The Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA), Towns of Chautauqua, Busti, Ellicott, and Ellery, Villages of Lakewood, Celoron, and Bemus Point, and the Chautauqua Lake Partnership (CLP) have employed a blended management approach, leveraging each organization's core competencies and management priorities, collectively aimed at a well-maintained, multi-use Chautauqua Lake.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued permits for the use of two types of registered herbicides to control populations of the invasive plants curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil in targeted areas of the littoral zone in the Towns of Ellery, Ellicott, and Busti, and Villages of Bemus Point, Celoron, and Lakewood. These municipalities, along with the CLP, worked with SOLitude Lake Management, a licensed applicator, to complete herbicide treatments in May and June to target curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, respectively. The curly-leaf pondweed treatment utilized the herbicide Aquathol-K and encompassed approximately 318 acres. ProcellaCOR EC, a relatively new herbicide with very few use restrictions associated with the dosage rate applied in Chautauqua Lake, was used to treat Eurasian watermilfoil across less than 100 acres of littoral zone. This is the second year ProcellaCOR EC has been incorporated into Chautauqua Lake's macrophyte management toolbox. According to the product label, plants treated with ProcellaCOR EC cannot be composted. As a result, the CLA will not be collecting and removing vegetation in areas treated with ProcellaCOR EC until around July 8th but plans to re-enter treated areas later in the summer as needed and in accordance with NYSDEC and label requirements.

The CLA has been active elsewhere on the lake since mid-May with its spring debris cleanup and pre-season curly-leaf pondweed harvesting programs, followed now by its regular season lakewide harvesting and shoreline cleanup programs, which are expected to continue through the summer. The CLA publishes weekly work reports and work plans on their website to inform the public about where they plan to work and the work that has been completed to date, which can be viewed by visiting <https://chautauqualakeassociation.org/>. Starting around July 6th, the Town of Chautauqua will also be operating four Mobitracs, amphibious lake maintenance vessels,

as part of a coordinated near-shore cleanup program in both the north and south basins of the lake. This is a continuation and enhancement of last year's inaugural joint-operations program between the Town's Mobitracs and CLA, which focused its efforts in the north basin of the lake.

Communication among the CLA, Town of Chautauqua, CLP, and other municipalities regarding the timing and location of the various chemical and physical plant management actions has been critical and has led to increased effectiveness, efficiency, and safety for this coordinated multi-technique approach. This increased communication and sharing of information to achieve our common overall purpose exemplifies the spirit of the new Chautauqua Lake Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) released by the County in May. The Alliance applauds the efforts of our Members working together to improve the health and usability of Chautauqua Lake. By unifying efforts and employing a variety of 'tools in the toolbox,' we are able to increase capacity, efficiency, and responsiveness to lake conditions.

Funding for these projects was provided in-part by The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Holmberg Foundation, and the County of Chautauqua. We thank them for their generous support of Chautauqua Lake and its many stakeholders. Other Alliance Member projects related to watershed management, invasive species, and research on Harmful Algal Blooms and water quality are also ongoing, and the Alliance looks forward to sharing more information and updates soon. For more information about these projects or the Alliance, please contact Alliance Executive Director Randall Perry at rperry@chautauquaalliance.org or 716-661-8923.