



2021 Annual Report

Presented at the May Member Meeting

The Lawson Center, Bemus Point, NY & via Zoom

May 12, 2022

History of the Alliance

- Evolved from the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) in late 2014
- Established for the benefit of all lake and watershed stakeholders
- 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.**

Alliance Members (2021-2022)

- Village of Bemus Point
- Village of Celoron
- Village of Lakewood
- Village of Mayville
- Jamestown Board of Public Utilities
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- Chautauqua Lake Association
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership
- Audubon Community Nature Center
- Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History
- Chautauqua Lake Fishing Association
- Arnold Holmberg Foundation
- North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District
- Town of Busti
- Town of Chautauqua
- Town of Ellery
- Town of Ellicott
- Town of North Harmony
- Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Board of Realtors
- The Lenna Foundation
- Chautauqua Institution
- County of Chautauqua
- South and Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts

Alliance Board of Directors (May 2021-May 2022)

1. **Bruce Erickson** – Chair (Chautauqua Lake Association)
2. **Don Emhardt** – Vice Chair (Town of Chautauqua)
3. **Mary Hutchings** – Secretary (Chautauqua Lake Partnership)
4. **Jim Andrews** – Treasurer (Town of Busti)
5. **Pierre Chagnon** (County of Chautauqua)
6. **Mike LaTone** (Chautauqua Lake Partnership)
7. **Dave Shepherd** (Arnold Holmberg Foundation)
8. **Paul (P.J.) Wendel, Jr.** (County of Chautauqua)
9. **Rob Yates** (Town of North Harmony)

Chautauqua Lake – Our Shared Resource

• Economic Driver

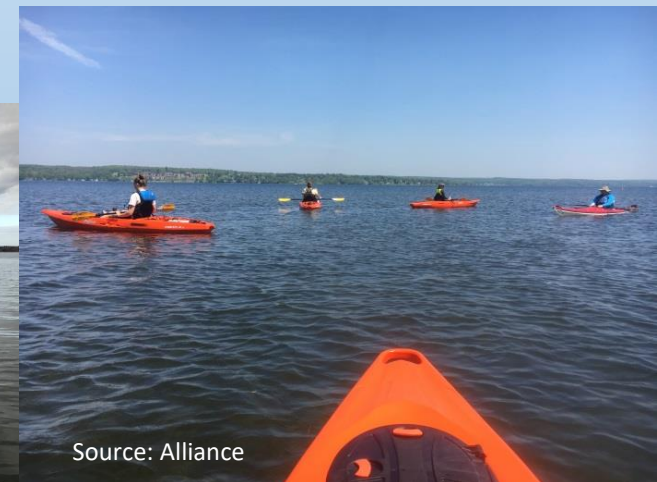
- Power Boating
- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Drinking water source
- County Property Tax Base

• Characteristics

- ~13K ac lake | ~102K ac watershed
- North & South Basin (shallow, nutrient-rich)

• Ecological Resource

- 2nd best Musky fishery in NY (Wide Open Spaces)
- 83rd best bass fishing lake in the country (Bassmaster Magazine)
- Improving walleye fishery (NYS DEC)
- Supports rare, threatened, and endangered species



Chautauqua Lake – Our Challenges, Our Opportunities

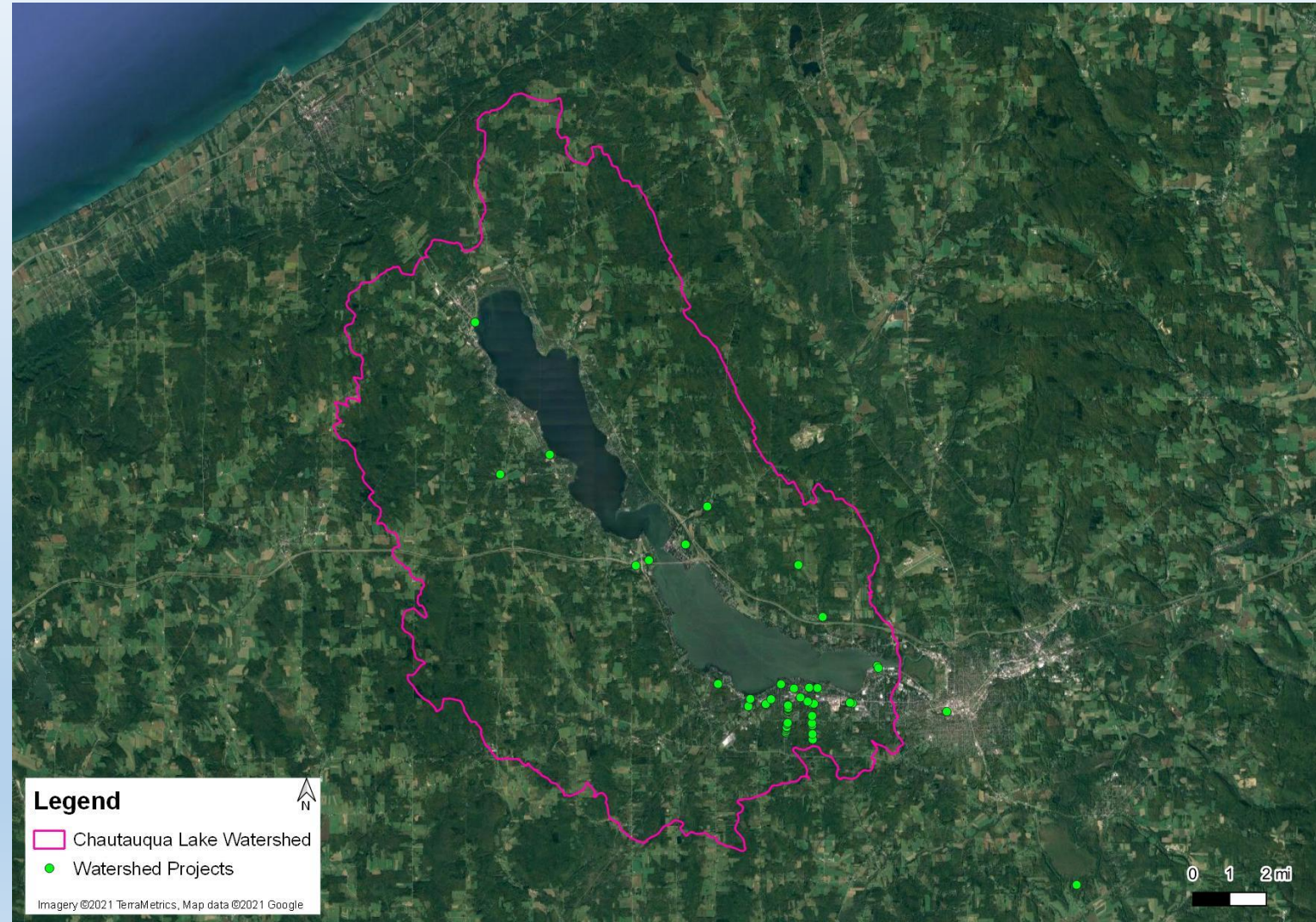


- Nuisance macrophyte (plant) growth (native and invasive)
- New invasive species threats
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Excess sediment and nutrient loading from the watershed
- Internal nutrient loading (Nitrogen, Phosphorus)
- Flooding
- Other pollutants (e.g., salt)
- Property loss (erosion)
- Loss of habitat/ biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Drinking water protection (Source Water)



Complex System, Comprehensive Focus

- *Example Lake Projects*
 - Macrophyte harvesting
 - Shoreline, Near-shore, and debris clean-up
 - Chemical macrophyte management
 - Invasive species programs/removal
- *Example Watershed Projects*
 - Stream stabilization
 - Municipal storm water management
 - Lake access/amenities
 - Riparian Buffers
 - Wastewater (septic/sewers)
- *Example Research/Monitoring*
 - Nutrient monitoring
 - HAB monitoring/reporting
 - Fisheries assessment
 - Lake monitoring and modeling
 - Macrophyte and lake condition surveys
 - Public research panels



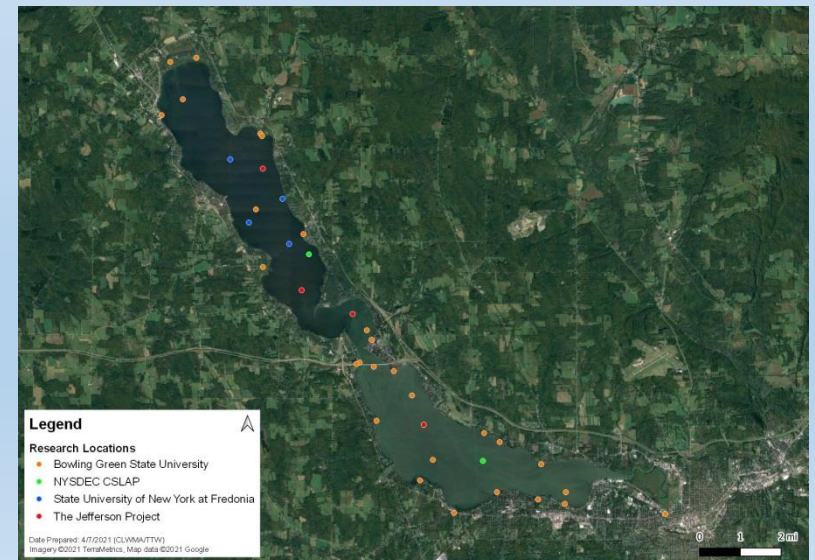
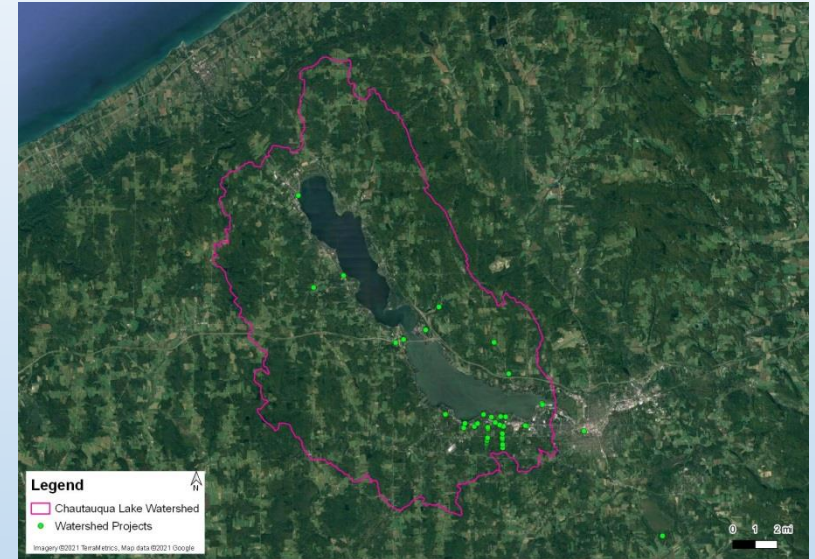
Progress through Partnership



Alliance-Partnered Projects *2015 – 2021*

79 total projects/programs
Valued at ~\$7.4 Million

Blend of Lake, Watershed, and
Research/Monitoring



2021 in Review

- **15 locally-funded, Member-led projects,**
- **10 upcoming or recently completed NYS-funded projects,**
- **Involving 16 different Alliance Founding Members,**
- **Total value of >\$4,000,000**
- Funding from The Lenna Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, the Holmberg Foundation, the County, and New York State NYSDEC, NYSEFC & NYSDOS
- Our Community's **Team at Work**
 - **Lake:** CLA; Town of Chautauqua; CLP; Busti; Lakewood; Ellery; Bemus Point; Ellicott; Celoron; RTPI; Audubon Community Nature Center
 - **Watershed:** CWC; Lakewood; Busti; Celoron; North Harmony; County; NCLSD; Town of Chautauqua; Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District
 - **Research/Monitoring:** CLP, Water Quality Research Panel

2021 Chautauqua Lake Management – A Balanced Approach



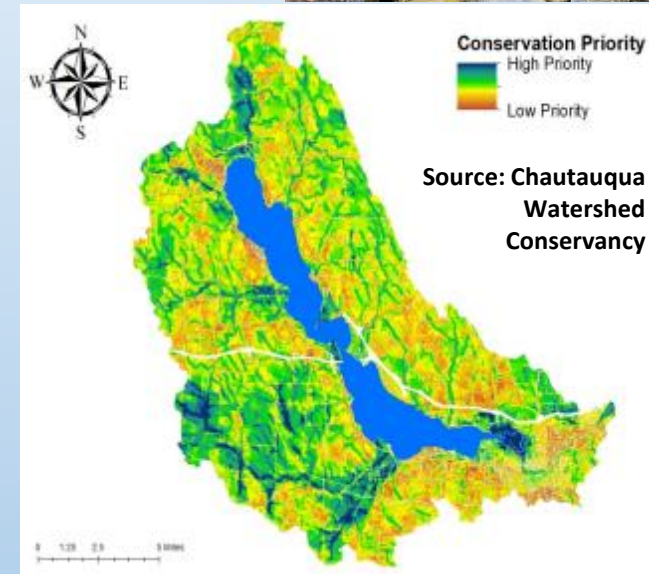
- Lake-wide service
- Joint Operations & Collaboration
- Near-shore/Shoreline cleanup (May-Oct)
- Macrophyte harvesting
 - Early season Curly Leaf Pondweed – May/June
 - Regular season (~June-Sept)
- Herbicide treatments via NYSDEC permits
 - Aquathol K (Curly Leaf Pondweed) – May
 - ProcellaCOR EC (Eurasian Watermilfoil) – June
- Invasive species early detection & removal
- New equipment
- GPS
- Enhanced reporting of completed & planned work



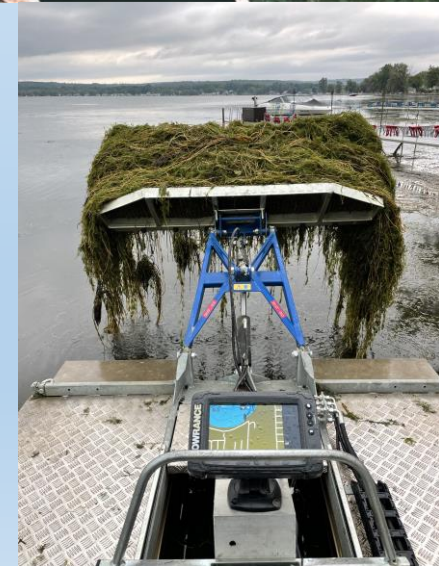
Long-term Investments in the Watershed



- Stream stabilization (Dutch Hollow, Ball Creek)
- Green Infrastructure (Lakewood)
- Swale retrofits (Busti, Chautauqua)
- Sewer Inflow & Infiltration (NCLSD)
- Lake access (Celoron)
- GIS analysis for prioritization (CWC)
- Homeowner consultations (CWC)
- Education and outreach (CWC)

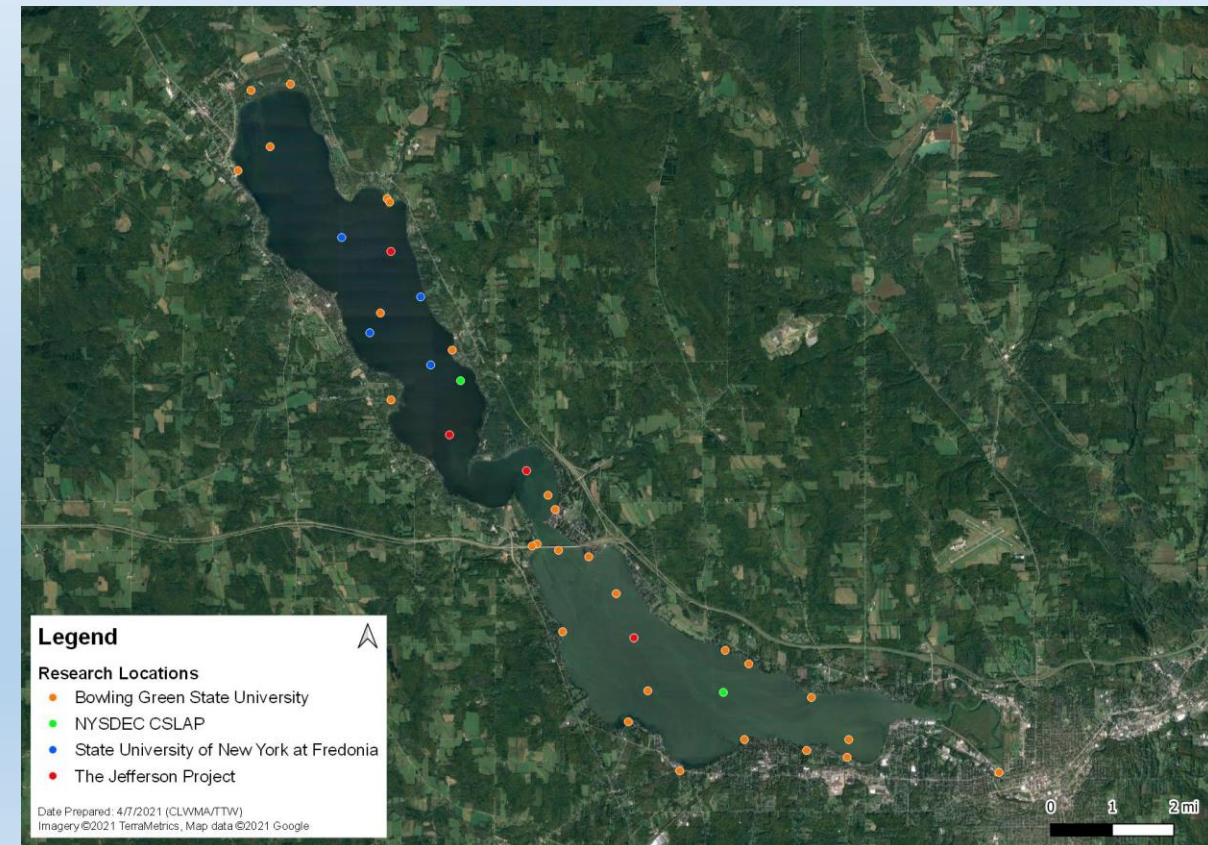
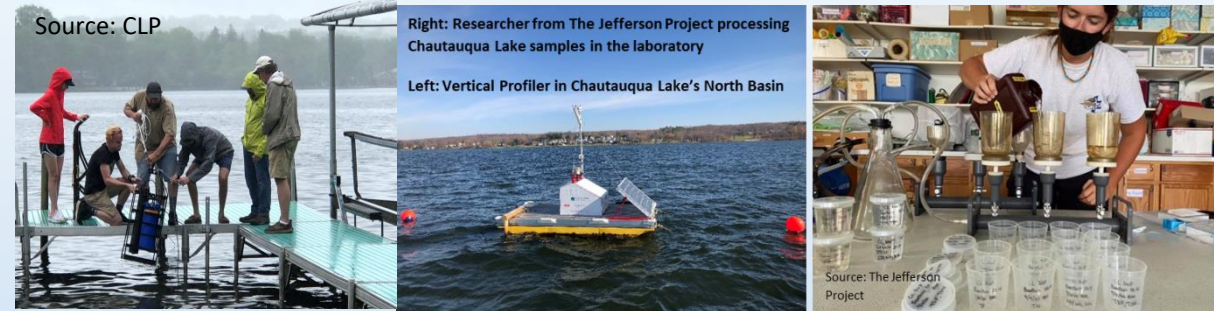


-



Collaborative Research Initiatives

- **Collaborative research efforts by leading experts** in lake dynamics, HABs, environmental monitoring & modeling
- **Sharing & coordination** of data/planning
- **“Science towards Solutions”** approach
- **Actionable data and information** for decision-makers
- **Public updates**
 - **Coming Soon on June 18! *Chautauqua Lake Water Quality Conference 2022* hosted by Chautauqua Institution**



THANK YOU! The Jefferson Project at Lake George, Bowling Green State University, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Oneonta, CSLAP (NYSDEC & Volunteers), NYHABS, North Carolina State University, Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists, SOLitude Lake Management, Princeton Hydro, and More

Looking Ahead



- **2022 Coordinated Lake Work Plan and New Watershed Initiatives led by Members**
- **New and ongoing research**
- **New partnerships**
- **2022 NYS Consolidated Funding Application**
- **2022-2023 Alliance Consolidated Local Grant Program**



Acknowledgments

- **Members and founders of the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC)**
- **Our Founding & Current Members**
- **County of Chautauqua**
- **Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation**
- **Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF)**
- **The Lenna Foundation**
- **Arnold Holmberg Foundation**
- **Hultquist Foundation**
- **Gebbie Foundation**
- **Committee Volunteers**
- **Individual Contributors**
- **Outgoing Board Members**



Thank You!



- **Randall Perry, Alliance Executive Director**
 - rperry@chautauquaalliance.org | (716) 661-8923
- **Taylor West, Alliance Project Manager**
- **Jay Young, Alliance Communications Coordinator**
- **Website: <http://www.chautauquaalliance.org/>**
 - Full Version of 2021 Annual Report and copy of this presentation will be available online soon.

