



## Chautauqua Current No. 25

Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, Inc.

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### ON THE LOOKOUT

### INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK ENDS, WORK CONTINUES



*Figure 1. Alliance Project Manager Taylor West is pictured above on the lookout for invasive species in Ashville Bay.*

*By Jay Young*

*Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance*

Friday marked the end of New York Invasive Species Awareness Week — the annual campaign featuring statewide events and public outreach related to problem plant and animal species. The state's eight different Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management organized a number of different training sessions, including an aquatic plant management workshop held on Wednesday at State University of New York at Fredonia. Alliance staff attended that event, and recently conducted kayak surveys in Ashville Bay and Prendergast Point to get eyes on early season plant growth. While Invasive Species Week has come to a close, work is just beginning.

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy will once again organize its staff, volunteers and program partners for the AIS Early Detection network, which aims to survey and combat populations of invasive underwater plants. “Through targeted education and outreach efforts, we’ll train volunteers in the identification of invasive species through online and in-person training sessions,” CWC said in a news release. “We’ll then take to the water in various locations around the lake throughout the summer to re-survey areas where invasives have been previously reported and also survey potential new sites for them as well.”

An information session is scheduled for tonight, June 12, via Zoom at 7 p.m. That link and other information can be found at [www.chautauquawatershed.org/aquatic](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org/aquatic), and interested parties can contact Sandra Emke at [ais@chautauquawatershed.org](mailto:ais@chautauquawatershed.org). On-water classroom and early detection survey paddles are scheduled for June 14, at 1 p.m. at Lucille Ball Memorial Park, and on June 23 at 8:30 a.m. at Prendergast Point boat launch. The first early-detection paddles are scheduled for June 28 at Ashville Bay, and July 14 at McCrae Point. Surveys of Ashville and Prendergast will address starry stonewort discovered last year, while paddles of the Chadakoin River typically focus on finding and removing isolated populations of water chestnut. As in years past, survey and management information will be logged into the state’s iMapinvasives portal, which has some exciting new mapping tools available for users this year.

Mechanical and chemical management programs targeting larger areas of invasive plants have also gotten started. On May 25 the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, working alongside certain municipalities and Solitude Lake Management, began its herbicide program by treating areas of Ellery, Bemus Point, Ellicott, and Lakewood with Aquathol K to address curly-leaf pondweed. A second herbicide treatment, using ProcellaCOR EC, is scheduled to take place this week to address invasive Eurasian watermilfoil. Please check CLP’s website at [chqlake.org/updates/](http://chqlake.org/updates/) for developments on that program.

In addition to removing debris from the lake during the first portion of its work season, the Chautauqua Lake Association has focused on removal of curly-leaf pondweed early in the year. CLA harvesters have been used to cut navigational channels in areas of dense pondweed growth, helping clear paths for early-season boaters. Pondweed starts to naturally die-off in late June/early July, shifting CLA work to harvesting other nuisance weeds, as well as shoreline cleanup done and coordination with the Town of Chautauqua Mobitrac program. Visit the CLA’s Facebook page for updates on their 2023 work.

You may have noticed that boat stewards from Western New York PRISM and the CLA are now stationed at public launches around the lake. They inspect boats to stop problem species entering and leaving, collect valuable data, and are great sources of information for the public. Finding and addressing these invasive threats early generally leads to lower costs and smaller environmental impacts down the line. This makes them good investments for the future of the lake. To learn more about some of these state and local programs, visit [www.chautauquaalliance.org/invasives/](http://www.chautauquaalliance.org/invasives/).