



CLCS News

Spring / Summer 2026

The Copake Lake Conservation Society endeavors to protect the quality of the Copake Lake watershed, preserve the ecological balance, and promote safe recreational use of the lake.

Box 37 ≈ Craryville, NY 12521 ≈ info@copakelakecs.org ≈ www.copakelakecs.org

President's Message

Hello Copake Lake Community and Lake Lovers:

I hope this finds everyone healthy and well. After a winter of some sub-zero, bitter temperatures, spring has sprung! Soon we will all be dusting off our kayaks and launching our boats, and getting ready to dive back in and enjoy our piece of paradise. We have all our member/volunteer positions in place working tightly as a team to ensure 2026 is a safe and enjoyable season for all. Please note... we always have room for more people who would like to donate their time and expertise. So please, if you are not involved and would like to be...reach out!

As we approach the season we rely on everyone's support in enhancing our community. Various fundraisers/activities include:

Saturday 5/30 - Copake Lake Shoreline Cleanup Day (at the Triangle at County Route 7 and Lakeview Road). CLCS 2026 merchandise on sale. Cash or check only, but walk away with your merchandise.

Saturday 7/4 - Annual Fourth of July boat parade begins off Southwest Colony waterfront at 1:00 PM.

Saturday 7/11 - CLCS Annual meeting (10:00 AM-12:00 Noon at the Greens Restaurant, Copake Country Club).

Saturday 7/18 - The Bash (at The Greens restaurant).

Friday 8/7 - Fourth Annual CLCS benefit golf tournament at Copake Country Club.

Saturday 8/8 -CLCS Special Event "Eliminate Zebra Mussels from Copake Lake" fundraiser at Copake Lake Boat & Ski starting at 6:30PM

Saturday 8/15- Annual fireworks (not a CLCS event, but a community favorite, privately funded).

All of these events are a great way to support the lake and meet your neighbors. We encourage and appreciate widespread participation.

We will continue to be collecting water samples throughout the summer to maintain safety standards as well as treatments for aquatic plants and other invasive species. Our goal is to maintain a pristine Copake Lake for all to enjoy.



We would like 100 % involvement from our community, however it works for you. This is a group effort and I look forward to making it another successful season.

See you soon,

Stu Troyetsky

Stu Troyetsky

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CLCS 2026 Board Of Trustees

OFFICERS/TRUSTEES (TERM EXPIRES)

Stuart Troyetsky <i>President (2026)</i>	Shebna Olsen-Shillibeer <i>Treasurer (2027)</i>
Jennifer Oliveira <i>Vice-President (2027)</i>	Julie Hochheiser Ilkovich <i>Recording Secretary (2026)</i>

ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Susan Daum (Toxicologist)	The Pond & Lake Connection
Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR)	James Gorman
George Knoecklein, Ph.D. (Limnologist)	Zach Davis
Kendra Kilson	Kathleen Noreau
Lauren McManus	Keith Schaefer
	Austin Urban

TRUSTEES (TERM EXPIRES)

Alex Almond (2026)	Lindsay LeBrecht (2027)
Cherie Berk (2027)	Jed Luchow (2026)
Jackie Bernstein (2027)	Shebna Olsen-Shillibeer (2027)
Fred Bunger (2027)	Janna Meyrowitz Turner (2026)
Colleen Closson (2026)	Annabel Nau (2026)
Joyce Craw (2026)	Jennifer Oliveira (2027)
Heather B. Ehrlich (2027)	Maria Powers (2027)
John Ernsberger (2026)	Debra Ruggieri (2026)
Debra Fischgrund (2026)	Gregory Spampinato (2027)
Trudi Haberman (2026)	Rachel Woodney Stein (2027)
Julie Hochheiser Ilkovich (2026)	Stu Troyetsky (2027)
Roger Kaplan (2026)	Edward Werfelman (2026)

CLCS 2026 Committees

Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee will review the CLCS Bylaws annually and recommend revisions to the Board of Trustees as needed.

Joyce Craw** Jed Luchow*** Jennifer Oliveira

Communications & Technology

The Communications Committee serves to design, publish, and monitor various media communications, such as the newsletter, website, email correspondence, and road signs.

Electronic	Newsletter	Publicity
Trudi Haberman	Denise Chickery	Cherie Berk
Heather B. Ehrlich***	Joyce Craw	Edward Werfelman
Roger Kaplan***	Jed Luchow (editor)	
Lindsay LeBrecht	Sharon Luchow†	
Maria Powers	Debra Ruggieri	
	Marcia Untracht*	

Education & Safety

The Education & Safety Committee is responsible for the design, writing, and dissemination of educational materials, and the presentation of educational programs for the membership.

Cherie Berk Maria Powers** Debra Ruggieri***

Finance

The Finance Committee supports the functions of the treasurer, including the creation of an annual budget, the purchase and review of insurance policies, year end audit, bookkeeping, & filing of tax returns.

Jennifer Oliveira*** Debra Ruggieri Ed Werfelman
Shebna Olsen-Shillibeer** Greg Spampinato,

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee serves to design, propose and organize activities for the purpose of raising funds for the organization.

Jackie Bernstein	Janet Harrold*	Debra Ruggieri
Colleen Closson**	Lindsay LeBrecht	Rachel Woodney
Heather B. Ehrlich***	Barbara Mauri*	Stein
Trudi Haberman	Jennifer Oliveira	

Lake Management

The Lake Management Committee is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information regarding the vitality and maintenance of the waters, shoreline, and watershed of Copake Lake.

Alex Almond***	Lindsay LeBrecht	Stu Troyetsky
Barbara Bunger*	Jed Luchow	Bob Untracht†
Fred Bunger**	Will Oliveira†	Austin Urban†
David Craw†	Debra Ruggieri	Ed Werfelman
John Ernsberger	Keith Schaefer†	Mike Whitcomb†
Kevin Hill*	Buddy Sinisi**	

Membership

The Membership Committee maintains membership information and contribution history. It generates newsletter articles and mailings to assist in maintaining and increasing the membership rolls and contributions. It will also seek volunteers to engage in CLCS committee activities.

Joyce Craw***	Denise Chickery*	Debra Fischgrund
Cherie Berk**	Debra Ruggieri	Sharon Luchow*
Jackie Bernstein	Trudi Haberman	

Chairperson*, Vice Chairperson**, Member/Volunteer***

Join any of the committees listed above or consider applying to join the Board of Trustees. It's a great way to meet new people and help your lake community. Go to info@copakelakecs.org to let us know of your interest.

2026 PROSPECTIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Note: This calendar reflects the traditional meetings and events at or around the Copake Lake community area.
Please consult the CLCS website for up-to-date information (www.copakelakecs.org)

- Saturday, May 9** **Town of Copake Clean-up Day.**
Town Garage, 8AM-12 Noon, 47 School Road. No construction waste, 4 Tire limit. Call Town Hall 518 329-1234 Ext 2 for more information/updates.
- Wednesday, May 20** **CLCS Board of Trustees meeting 5:00-6:30 PM by Zoom**
CLCS members-in-good-standing may access this meeting by contacting the Secretary, Julie Hochheiser Ilkovich, at julie.h.ilkovich@gmail.com.
- Saturday, May 23** **Memorial Day Weekend.**
CLCS Information Booth will be open. CLCS 2026 merchandise will be for sale (cash or check only). 9 AM-12 Noon. Corner of County Route 7 and Lakeview Road.
- Saturday, May 30** **Copake Lake Annual Shoreline Clean Up Day, 9 AM- 12 Noon RAIN OR SHINE**
(please no household trash). CLCS 2026 merchandise will be for sale. Corner of County Route 7 & Lakeview Rd.
- Wednesday, June 10** **Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 5:00-6:30 PM by Zoom**
CLCS members-in-good-standing may access this meeting by contacting the Secretary, Julie Hochheiser Ilkovich, at julie.h.ilkovich@gmail.com.
- June-August** **Herbicide treatments will be scheduled as needed.**
There will be advance notice of treatment restrictions of lake use posted around the lake and on the CLCS website.
- Saturday, July 4** **Annual July 4th Boat Parade (celebrate America's 250th Birthday).**
This is NOT a CLCS event. Parade starts at Southwest Colony at 1 PM.
- Saturday, July 11** **CLCS Annual Meeting, 10AM-12PM at The Greens Restaurant at the Copake Country Club**
- Saturday, July 18** **Annual Summer Bash at The Greens.** Theme is **BLUE**. Check CLCS website for details
- Friday, August 7** **4th Annual CLCS Benefit Golf Tournament, Copake Country Club**
- Saturday, August 8** **"No Zebra Mussels in Copake Lake," fundraiser,**
Copake Lake Boat & Ski, 6:30 PM.
- Saturday, August 15** **Annual Fireworks at the Copake Country Club.**
This is NOT a CLCS event. This event is supported by Community donations.
- Weds., September 9** **Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 5:00-6:30 PM by Zoom (**
CLCS members-in-good-standing may access this meeting by contacting the Secretary, Julie Hochheiser Ilkovich, at julie.h.ilkovich@gmail.com.
- Sat., September 19** **Roe-Jan Ramble Bike Tour**
This is NOT a CLCS event. This ride will go through Copake, Hillsdale, and Ancram. For more information go to Roejanramble.org or call Tom Goldsworthy 347 952-5764.
- Oct., Nov., Dec.,** **Board of Trustees Meeting 5 PM**
- Tuesday, December 1** **"#GIVINGTUESDAY" Fundraiser for CLCS**

*Lake treatments will be scheduled as needed. Treatment dates will be made firm based on lake testing results. Notices will be posted around the lake prior to any treatments as well as on the CLCS website. Check our website for dates and information.

www.copakelake.org **Columbia County Hazardous Household Waste Collection

CLCS Contributors (2025)

Every effort is made to keep the membership list up to date. We apologize for any errors.

If you have contributed and your name does not appear on the list please email us at www.copakelakecs.org

Lake Angel - \$1000 Plus

Michael & Sophie Bienstock
Eileen Blank
Stacey & Miles Braffett
Pam & Rick Brown
Barbara & Fred Bunger
Paul Casey & Marika Pritchett-Casey
Denise Chickery
Karen Lau/Peter Chudy
Joyce & David Craw
Chase Booth / Gray Davis
Harry & Heather Ehrlich
Terence & Tamela Greene
Trudi & Michael Haberman
John & Robin Schwartz Kennedy
Doug & Anne Kleeschulte
Kim Barton / Mitchell Konsker
John Legere Family
Roni Neuer & Herb David
Danielle Avelia Libertson Family
Jed & Sharon Luchow
Javier Vargas / Monica Machado
Barbara & Ross Mauri
Marie & Jerry Pindis
Brian & Carol Powers
Lisa & John Roberts
Dominick & Vera Sinisi
Russell & Rachel Stein
William G. Sweeney
Stuart & Marcia Troyetsky
Jon & Kim Urban
Michael & Jean Whitcomb
Dennis & Ilise Posen
Zimmerman

Lake Fanatic - \$500-999

KLaura & Warren Amengual
Kevin & Gloria Anderson
Carolyn and Paul Aversano
Ryan Walsh/John Barbato
Ralph & Cherie Berk
Helen and Nathan Bernstein
Judith Weinstock / Craig Bitman
Meredith Lawrence and Matt Breitman
Patricia Mora / Mauricio Buenaventura
Richard & Joana Chiappa
Monica & Jeff / Roger & Joanne Kaplan/Isabelle & Henry Hale Cohen
Irene & James Connors
Madeline Freed
Janet Fried

Beth Feeny & Kathy Gleeson
John & Peggy Guttilla
Larry & Katie House
Dana Rathkopf / Daniel Hunter
Michelle & Matthew Ingber
Andrea & Mark Kaplan
James Lalime / Jane Landers
Kathy & Jim Layer
Jeffery & Julia Lazarus Family
Bari & Lex Malas
Michael & Joyce McGovern
Lisa & Richard McHale
Gayle Morgan
Larry & Lois Nipon
Richard & Margaret Pawlikowski
Ali, Scott, Brent, Sam, Jack, Phoebe Rosenberg Family
Lucia Scarlato Family
Stuart & Shebna Shillibeer
Richard & Sasha Shutkind
Liz Nealon / Seymour Simon
Gregory Spampinato
Barbara & Richard Strauss
Marcia & Robert Untracht

Lake Lover - \$300-499

Ron & Kristen Axelrad
Frank & Nancy Bader
Carl & Kathy Bergquist
Jackie & Stanley Bernstein
A. Paul & Joan Bogaty
James & Ruth Ann Carmody
Anthony & Patricia Chibbaro
Colleen Closson
Randy & Susan Cohen-Byrne
Arthur & Joanie Cooper
Caroline & Patrick Corcoran
Alan P. Crowley
Renee & Blaise D'Ambrosio
Rian Davis
John & Lara Ernsberger
Dorothy Evangelista
Albert & Noel Fair
Robert & Debra Fischgrund
Annelise Fortier Atamian
Belle & Jim Frank
Lynn Tattersall Hill / Edward Hill
Jennifer & Kenny Kapfer
Andrea Freshman & David Kiefer
Lindsay LeBrecht
Brett & Kim Merker
Michael & Anna Messing
Steve & Liz Meszaros
Bruce & Lorrie Millman
Christan Cassidy / Eduardo Nau

Ruth Pelham
Joshua Darcy / Patira Puttharuksa
Hayley and Perry Rowthorn
Matthew & Alexa Shadic
Dr. Michael Sole DP & Grace Sole
Barry Polayes & Carol Tiger
James & Margaret Vaeth
Maria Pfeiffer & Jason Vogel
Dr. Steven & Anne Weisholtz
Paul and Rochelle Weissberg
Frank & Angie Zacarolli

Lake Friend - \$150-299

Alex Almond
Linda Senk / Dr. Scott Altman
Rick Aluisio
Philip & Josephine Antico
Rose & Ehud Arbit
Jay & Mona Aronstam
Douglas & Jennifer Bandes / Racioppi
Janet Moy & Patrick Bishow
Guy & Jayme Bolognese
Arthur & Cynthia Bonifati
Irene Morales Breeden
Andy & Kathy Campbell
Richard & Arleen Carroll
Jason & Susan Chadkin
Heather and Josh Cohen
Jeffrey Judd / Carole Coleman
Christine & John Corcoran-Wiswell
Michael L. Crowley
Richard & Terry D'Amour
Melissa Darling
Susan & Walter Daum
Mitchell and Barbara Davich
Peter & Marie Dell'Aera
Robert & Marilyn Derector
Maria DiSalvo
Jodi Disch
Brad & Marla Dubler
Falconer Family
Amy Lisa Ariel Farber
Arlene Riley/Tom Fay
John & Grace Feighery
Rose Marie Foth
Doris Varlese / Eric Freed
Gelfo Family
Lynn & Mitchell Gelman
Jay & Evelyn Gutkin
Suzanne & John Hallenbeck
John Hauseman
Daniel & Julie, Annie, Lily Ilkovich
Richard & Ceylia Kabata

Roger Kaplan
David & Kay Kaplan
David & Hope Karson
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kavalier
Geraldine & John Keelyn
Nancy, Gregg & Kiley Killawee
Joan Koweek
Steven Krelas
Patricia & Stephen Latzman
Paul & Joan Layer
Shelley Huttner/Mark Leshner
Diana Logozio
Rob Luchow
Tami, Steve, Marty & Ben Luchow / The Sachs Family
Sonia Pilcer & Morton Makler
Peter, Monique and Gail Marano Family
Cyd & Tim McDowell
Andrea Meakem
Michael & Susan Melnyk
Gerald & Linda Melody
Douglas Miller
Jason & Joanne Minoff
Cheryl & Hannah Moch
Richard Mroz
Susan Sherkow & Charles Murkofsky
Michael & Jeanne Naclerio
Stephen Kaplan / William Nolan
Sharon & Dominick Novielli
Shane & Kelsey O'Connell
Jennifer & William Oliveira
Karen Page
Matthew & Maryann Paliwoda
David & Victoria Parsons
Bruce & Melissa Pastre
Annabel Nau Phojanakong
Brenda & Robert Piper
Sam & Maura Pittelli
Ursula & Jerzy Podgorski
Suzan & Mike Porter
Maria & Donald Powers
Megan & Josh Prokopiak
Francis Pross
Richard & Elise Resnik
Alan & Helaine Robinson
William & Karen Roos
Van Mackey / Buz Rosmilso
Debra & Mark Ruggieri
James And Barbara Ryan
Nancy Pratt / Steven Sabatini
Susan & Phil Saline
Philip Santoro
Richard & Maria Scardino
Keith Schaefer

Tony & Cory Schifano
Merrie & Carl Schiller
Steven & Karen Schutzer
Jody & Robert Shassol
Marissa Shedd
Fred & Eloise Silverman
Elayne & Philip Smith
Wayne Sprague
Robert Strohmeier
Justin Sussman
John & Christine Szulborski
Janna Meyrowitz & Ethan Turner
Arnold Vandeusen
Jennifer Wagman
James Wagner
Thomas & Cindy & Jack Walsh
Barbara & David Walton
Emily Weiss
James Murphy & Edward Werfelman
Robert & Amy Wilkinson
Michael & Diane Yanniello
Douglas Ziegler

General Donations

Anonymous
Shelly & Leonard Barham
Robert & Marcia Becker
Birches Homeowners Assoc.
Amy And Scott Byrne
Synastry Capital
Myrna Charry
Kevin & Bonnie Costello
Carol & Stephen Fass
Michele McBride Heal
Philomena Jensen
Joel & Sari Kaplan Mittler
President Estates
Amy & Steven Sklar Wallace
Theodor Weinberg
Barry Winiker

Business Supporters

Copake Lake Realty Corp.
Heather Herrington Fuels

Matching

Equitable Advisors
Fidelity
JP Morgan
Pfizer
Take-Two Interactive Software Inc

In Honor and In Memory Contributors 2025

CONTRIBUTORS	IN HONOR	CONTRIBUTORS	IN HONOR
Anonymous	In Honor of Colleen Clossen	Ali, Scott, Brent, Sam, Jack, Phoebe Rosenberg Family	In Honor of Jed & Sharon Luchow
Myrna Charry	In Honor of Lindsay LeBrecht	Elayne & Philip Smith	In Honor of Sharon & Jed Luchow
Tami, Steve, Marty & Ben Luchow / The Sachs Family	In Honor of Jed & Sharon Luchow	Emily Weiss	In Honor of Arlene Riley
Jed & Sharon Luchow	In Honor of Michael Feibish	Barry Winiker	In Honor of Jed & Sharon Luchow
Joel & Sari Kaplan Mittler	In Honor of Jed & Sharon Luchow	Dennis & Ilise Posen Zimmerman	In Honor of Belle Frank's 70th Birthday
CONTRIBUTORS	IN MEMORY	CONTRIBUTORS	IN MEMORY
Eileen Blank	In Memory of Anita Blank	Jed & Sharon Luchow	In Memory of Catherine Werfelman
Barbara & Fred Bunger	In Memory of Steven Chickery	Cyd & Tim Mcdowell	In Memory of Laci Rossman
Amy And Scott Byrne	In Memory of Nick K.	Ruth Pelham	In Memory of Dee Pelham Turner In Memory of George Disch
Paul Casey & Marika Pritchett- Casey	In Memory of Mary Lou Pritchett	Sam & Maura Pittelli	In Memory of Sam Pittelli
Dorothy Evangelista	In Memory of John and Greg	Van Mackey / Buz Rosmilso	In Memory of Van Mackey
Madeline Freed	In Memory of Kenny Freed	Hayley And Perry Rowthorn	In Memory of Murray and Ruth Epstein
Janet Fried	In Memory J. Michael Fried	Debra & Mark Ruggieri	In Memory of Steven Chickery
Beth Feeney & Kathy Gleeson	In Memory of Fred Falconer	Gregory Spampinato	In Memory of William J. Spampinato
Michele McBride Heal	In Memory of Steven Chickery	Jon & Kim Urban	In Memory of Mary Lou Pritchett
Roger Kaplan	In Memory of Myra Kaplan	James Murphy & Edward Werfelman	In Memory of Daniel Hoysradt In Memory of Alexis Wilhelm In Memory of Giulliano 'Tony' Schiozzi
Doug & Anne Kleeschulte	In Memory of Steven Chickery	Douglas Ziegler	In Memory of Harriett Ziegler
James Lalime/Jane Landers	In Memory of Lucille Landers		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! CLCS ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend our Annual meeting
Open House to learn what is going on
with Copake lake!

July 11, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon,
The Greens Restaurant,
Golf Course Road, Copake

For our *Copake Lake Community* **IN MEMORIAM**

Angelique "Angel" Michael
Payson Berstein
George "Buddy" Disch
Jesse Farber
Sam Pittelli
Mary Lou Pritchett

Lake Management Committee (LMC) Plans for 2026 Season

The LMC, joined by Dr. George Knoecklein, Kendra Kilson, and Lauren McManus from NEAR who gathers data about Copake Lake. Along with James Gorman and Zach Davis from The Pond and Lake Connection (herbicide applicators), they discussed the plan for herbicide treatments for Copake Lake for 2026. Unfortunately, we had an extremely low turnout from LMC members with only 6 of 16 members present on the Zoom.

We discussed bubblers (de-icers) near docks on Copake Lake, zebra mussels returning to the lake, valve close date, and road sign notices for herbicide treatments around Copake Lake this spring and summer.

Herbicide treatments with SONAR and Earth Tec QZ (zebra mussels) will be an additional expense to this year's LMC budget.

De-Icers (bubblers) currently do not require permits from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Issues concerning de-icers require ordinances from local towns. De-icers are not an issue for the Copake Lake Conservation Society.

2025 Lake Monitoring Report Review:

Kendra reviewed the 2025 end-of-year lake monitoring report, which showed improved clarity at Stations 1 and 2, but the worst clarity since 2020 at Station 3 near Copake Lake Boat and Ski. Kendra presented findings on aquatic plants, noting that while milfoil was more abundant later in the season, it appeared unhealthy after treatments, suggesting reduced growth for 2026. The team discussed a new recommendation for two treatments on curly leaf pondweed to address a second crop, and George confirmed that water stargrass can spread through seeds and rhizomes.

Zebra Mussel Treatment Effectiveness Review:

The group discussed the effectiveness of a treatment for zebra mussels, which was expected to last three years (2022-2024) but showed increased presence in the fourth year (2025). The Pond & Lakes Connection explained that zebra mussel treatments do not require permits, allowing flexibility in scheduling. He noted that while previous treatments were done in spring, they could be adjusted based on seasonal conditions.

Update after the meeting: The Pond & Lake Connections noted that Zebra mussels start spawning at 54 degrees (Water temp) and are really active at 68 degrees. This means a later treatment is advisable when water temperatures are higher and seems to correlate with the last treatment dates.

The group discussed lake treatments, noting that water levels were lower than last year but still sufficient for treatment. James mentioned they were prepared for a diquat treatment in the spring for curly leaf and would assess the need for sonar treatment based on the spring survey, particularly in areas with political complaints about thinning stargrass. They agreed to be more aggressive with treatments in problem areas if needed, and Alex confirmed that last year's treatments were successful with no major issues reported. The group also discussed the possibility of more aggressive copper sulfate treatments in certain areas if clarity issues arise, and Alex asked about the need for a wetlands permit for the cove area.

Zebra Mussel Treatment Timing Discussion

The group discussed the timing of an EarthTech treatment for zebra mussels, noting that New York State's rewritten wetland rules have temporarily suspended permit requirements. James explained that the treatment should be done in the spring when water temperatures are between 50-75 degrees, with two applications required due to the mussels' ability to close up after the first treatment. The team agreed that early spring timing would be ideal to avoid algae growth and allow for better wind dispersion of floating mussels, though James will verify the exact timing recommendations with EarthTech.

Lake Treatment Planning Discussion

The group discussed lake treatments, focusing on zebra mussel and milfoil control. James agreed to provide a quote for EarthTec and suggested posting signs about the treatments, with advice to mention swim-at-your-own-risk warnings depending on water temperature. The team decided to prioritize optimal timing for zebra mussel treatments over milfoil and sonar treatments. Keith reported that ice conditions remain unchanged, so the planned valve closure date will proceed as scheduled.

Lake Ice Monitoring System Planning

The group discussed lake ice conditions, with Keith noting that ice thickness had remained stable at around 13-14 inches for three weeks and shared Buddy's rule that three consecutive days above freezing start ice melting. They agreed to implement a real-time lake monitoring system, with Keith working on temperature sensor integration and Alex coordinating with the treasurer to publish data on the website. Kendra reported that their first survey would take place in mid-April, and they discussed continuing to use posters for applications, while Kendra agreed to email Alex regarding budget adjustments for ammonia and nitrate testing recommendations.

Here's to a great 2026 season!

Alex Almond

Chairperson
Lake Management Committee

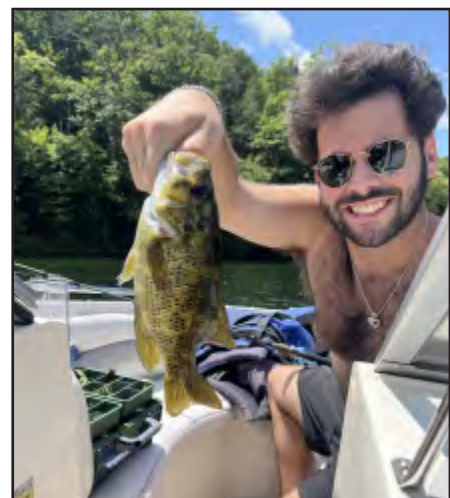


Photo by: Sharon Luchow

Marty Sachs gets one last large mouth bass in cove at Cove Colony.



4 Top Hudson Valley Region Sales in 2025 on *Copake Lake*.

More to come in 2026!



JOHN BARBATO
 Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
 M: 917.254.7630
 john.barbato@compass.com
 johncbarbato.com

OUR TEAM
 Matthew Snyder, Lic. R.E. Salesperson
 Heather Cohen, Lic. R.E. Salesperson



27 Lake Ridge Lane, Copake Lake
SOLD \$4,450,000



42 Golf Course Road, Copake Lake
SOLD \$2,400,000



225 Lakeview Road, Copake Lake
SOLD \$2,125,000



250 Island Drive, Copake Lake
SOLD \$2,000,000

COMPASS

The John Barbato Team is a team of real estate agents affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and dealer for Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources believed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. Photos may be virtually staged or rights enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.



The Blue Olive

An Extraordinary Tasting Experience

The Blue Olive is a premium olive oil and vinegar tasting room and specialty gourmet store located in Pawling, Cold Spring, and now at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie, New York. We feature many infused and premium varietal extra virgin olive oils. We also feature specialty wine and balsamic vinegars, homemade bread, cake, and pizza kits, olives and tapenades, pasta and risotto, gift baskets and wedding favors, a variety of sea salts, local-based jams, herbs, honey and maple syrup, homemade olive oil soaps and beauty items, and much more!

Pawling, Cold Spring, and now at Eastdale Village in Poughkeepsie, New York

www.TheBlueOliveShop.com

WHY WE NEED YOU!

Imagine a summer without the lake. No morning fishing, no afternoon swimming, no serene evening boat rides. Instead, a shoreline choked with weeds, murky water, and a pungent odor that keeps you indoors.

This isn't just a gloomy hypothetical; it is the natural fate of many water bodies if they are left to fend for themselves. Copake Lake is a living, breathing ecosystem that requires intentional, collaborative care to stay healthy, beautiful, and usable.

Protecting this resource is not just the job of a distant committee or the local government—it is a community effort. Here is why we must come together, and how you can help.

Why Our Lake Needs Your Support

Lakes are dynamic, but they face constant pressure from human activity and natural aging. Without consistent maintenance, excessive muck, nutrient pollution (phosphorus and nitrogen from lawn fertilizers), and invasive weeds can rapidly degrade water quality.

- **Property Value & Community Charm:** A clean, clear lake is the heart of our community's appeal. Conversely, an overgrown or smelly lake can severely diminish property values.
- **Recreational Enjoyment:** Whether you are an angler, a boater, or a swimmer, we all depend on safe water. Proactive management prevents harmful algal blooms that could close our lake
- **Environmental Health:** A healthy lake provides a critical habitat for fish, birds, and beneficial wildlife. It also acts as a natural water purifier, but only if that system is maintained.

What We Can Do Together

True stewardship is proactive, not reactive. Waiting until a crisis occurs usually means more expensive and invasive repairs. Here is how we can act now:

1. **Support our volunteer organization:** Donate to and join the Copake Lake Conservation Society. We are on the front lines, organizing clean-ups, water quality monitoring, and invasive species management. It is not an inexpensive task. Last year it cost more than \$85,000. This effort can only be sustained with yearly donations from all who use and enjoy our lake.
2. **Volunteer for Clean-Up Days:** Get involved in shoreline cleanups to remove litter and debris before it enters the water.
3. **Create a Protective Buffer:** If you live on the shore, keep natural vegetation, trees, and shrubs between your home and the water. These act as a "buffer" to filter out nutrients and sediment, preventing erosion and keeping the water clean.

4. **Practice Smart Landscaping:** Reduce or eliminate the use of phosphorus fertilizers and pesticides near the water and in the watershed. Use native plants that require less maintenance and help hold soil in place.

5. **"Clean, Drain, and Dry":** Always clean your motor boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, trailers, and fishing equipment after use in other bodies of water to prevent the spread of invasive species that can destroy the lake's delicate balance.

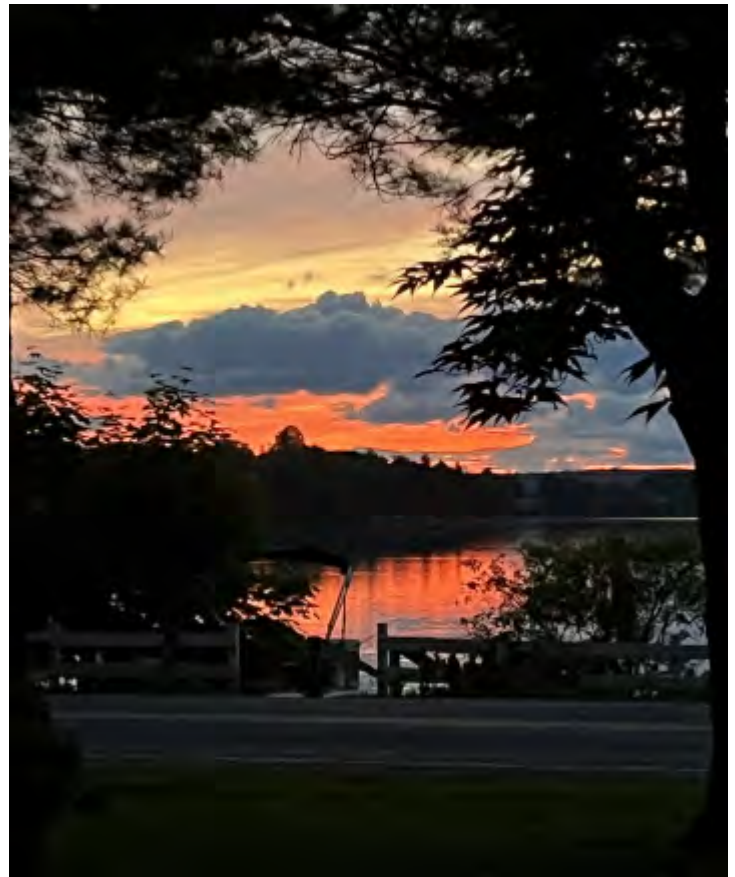
A Legacy for Future Generations

Taking care of our lake is an investment in our quality of life today and a legacy for the future. The effort we put in now ensures that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the same pristine, peaceful, and vibrant waters that we treasure.

Let's not wait for the lake to tell us it's in trouble. Let's come together to support the health of our water, our community, and our home. We need you! A donation of \$150 or more will not only benefit the lake, but will provide a 2026 membership in the CLCS.

Go to copakelakecs.org to donate and join the effort today—our lake thanks you!

Joyce Craw, Debbie Ruggieri



"Of course, this is a summer 2025 sunset over Copake Lake. Where else could it be?"
Celia Kahn

Copake Lake Shoreline Clean-Up Day 2026

(May 30, 2026, Saturday, RAIN OR SHINE)

New plans for CLCS Shoreline Clean-Up Day

Last summer CLCS Shoreline Clean-Up Day was held on Saturday, May 31, 2025. We had an extreme rain storm that lasted all morning through noon. No one was able to get to the dumpster at the Triangle at Lakeview Road and County Route 7 and debris placed along those was not picked up that day. CLCS did pay for the dumpster for a second day on Sunday, June 1, but very few people showed up. The Urbans from Copake Country Club did donate the use of a pickup truck on Sunday and the assistance of Nathan (Nick) Callahan, Don Matteson, and Brian Elloit, who picked up the debris left along Lakeview Road and County Route 7.

This year the CLCS Shoreline Clean-Up Day will be held on May 30, 2026 (Saturday) from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, RAIN OR SHINE. The debris will be picked up between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM and brought to the dumpster at the Triangle between Lakeview Road and County Route 7. Neighbors are requested to bring lake debris only (no household trash or lawn equipment of any kind) to the dumpster. Thanks to the “Guardians of the Dumpster” (Dave Crow, Jed Luchow, Ed Werfelman) who will monitor the use of the dumpster.

CLCS 2026 merchandise will be on sale at the Information Booth at the Triangle from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. We can only accept cash or checks, but you will be able to take your purchases with you.

Jed Luchow,
Event Coordinator,
Lake Management Committee



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FIREWORKS

at The Greens*

**Saturday,
 August 22, 2026
 at 9 p.m.**

**Not a CLCS event; privately sponsored*

Treasurer's Report

PROFIT & LOSS

January - December 2025

Income:

Ads	2,400.00
CONTRIBUTIONS Income	112,512.68
FUNDRAISING	34,330.65
In-Kind Revenue – Town of Copake	30,000.00
Interest Income	7,564.30
Total Income	\$186,807.63

Expenses

ADMINISTRATION	6,989.97
COMMUNICATIONS	8139.81
EDUCATION	149.18
LAKE MANAGEMENT	84,509.75

Total Expenses	\$99,788.71
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$87,018.92
NET INCOME	\$87,018.92



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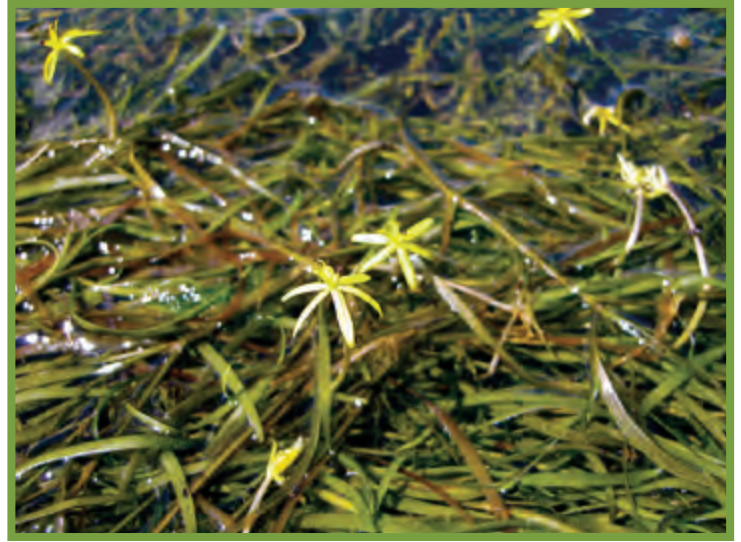
6/11-8/27 LIVE MUSIC THURS NIGHTS
7/18 CLCS SUMMER BASH
8/15 FIREWORKS NIGHT
9/19 FOOD TRUCK & CRAFT BEER FEST

Copake Lake Aquatic Plants

Native (desirable) Plants



Slender naiad *Najas flexilis*



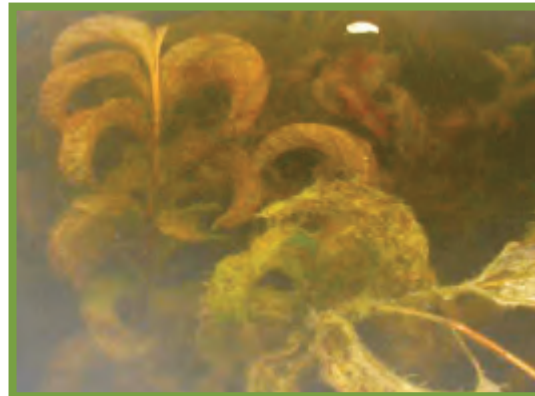
Water stargrass *Zosterella dubia*



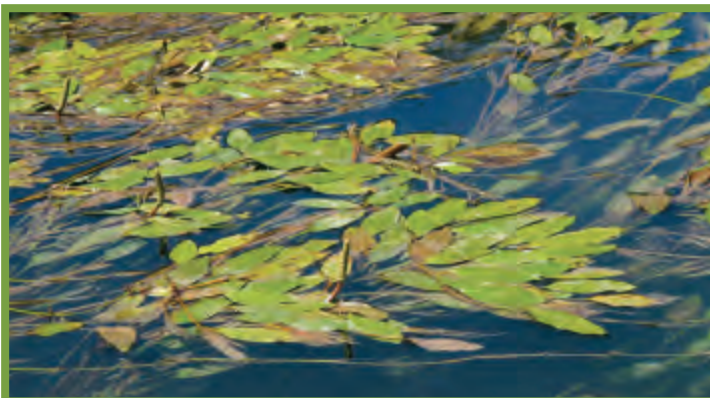
Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*



Large leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*)



Large leaf pondweed - underwater (*Potamogeton amplifolius*)



Long-leaf Pondweed *Potamogeton nodosus*



Common elodea *Elodea canadensis*



Tape Grass *Vallisneria americana*

Copake Lake Aquatic Plants

Non-Native (invasive) Plants

**Be on the
lookout for
these invasive
plants!**



Eurasian water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*



Hydrilla *Hydrilla verticillata*



Curly-leaf pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*



Brittle Naiad *Brittle water nymph najas minor*

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE NEW NYS BOATING LAW AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025?

A new boating law, known as Brianna's Law, went into effect on January 1, 2020. Brianna Lieneck, was an 11 year old girl killed in a boating accident in Long Island's Great South Bay in 2005. Gina Lieneck, Brianna's mother lobbied lawmakers to pass Brianna's Law in honor of her daughter's memory. Brianna's law requires all motor boat operators born on or after January 1, 1978 to complete a safety course to operate a motor boat by January 1, 2025. The new law requires ALL operators of ALL power boats, including electric motors, to take an approved NYS boating safety course. Check out www.boat-ed.com to register for an online class. Information on how to replace a lost or damaged boating safety certificate can be found here as well. You may add your NYS Boating Safety Certificate to your New York State Department of Motor Vehicle ID. The endorsement will appear as an anchor icon on the face of the DMV ID. [NYStateBoatingSafetyCertificateOptionalCredentialedDMVDocument.pdf](https://www.nysdmv.org/Services/OptionalCredentialedDocuments/NYSBoatingSafetyCertificateOptionalCredentialedDMVDocument.pdf). A 5-year phase-in period applies to all operators of all motorized watercraft, including electric motors.

Under this new law, the phase-in period for all motor boat operators will be as follows:

- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1993 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2020.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2022.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2023.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2024.
- All motor boat operators regardless of age will need a boating safety certificate beginning on January 1, 2025.

Fines of between \$100 and \$250 will be imposed for failure to comply under the new law that took effect as of Jan. 1, 2020. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation, which administers the law, estimates that there are nearly one million boaters who will have to take the boating safety course before the completion of the phasing in on Jan. 1, 2025. Further information on this law and classes can be found on the following website: <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>.

As a reminder, Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) are required to be worn by, and securely fastened to, any youth under the age of 12 on boats 65 feet or less in length (NYS Nav. Law Section 40.1(d)). PFD's are also required on every pleasure vessel including canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, and rowboats operated upon the waters of NYS. You must have on board one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on the watercraft. In addition, vessels 16 feet and greater in length must also carry a type IV throwable PFD.

Additional information on the use of PFD's can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/documents/PFDLawsOfNewYork.pdf>.

Maria Powers & Debra Ruggieri
Education & Safety Committee



*Safety on Copake Lake takes each one of us.
Photo by Debra Ruggieri*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026
SUMMER BASH

Saturday, JULY 18, 2026

4th Annual
GOLFOUTING

Friday, AUG 7, 2026

2026 Copake Lake Boating Rules And Regulations

Source, *New York State Office of Parks Recreation & Historical Preservation* (www.nysparks.com/recreation/boating)

AGE: Motorized boat operators must be 18 or over. Or, between the ages of 10 and 18 must have completed certified boating safety (NYS Law).

AGE: As of May 1, 2014, operators born after May 1, 1996 must have a NYS approved Safe Boating Course and be at least 10 years of age in order to operate a motorboat in New York State.

BOATING HOURS: Watercraft must not exceed 6 mph between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. (Town Ordinance).

NOISE: All watercraft must have effective mufflers (Town Ordinance). Watercraft noise must not exceed 75 decibels (NYS Law).

SPEED: All watercraft must slow down to 5 mph when less than 100 ft from shore, dock, or other vessel, or in "no wake" zones (NYS Law).

RIGHT OF WAY: Motorized watercraft must yield to swimmers and non-motorized watercraft (NYS Law).

SAFETY:

- a. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD): Children under the age of 12 must wear approved PFD while in a watercraft. Approved flotation devices are required for each person on board (NYS Law).
- b. Water Skiing: Water skiers must have a "look-out" over the age of 10 (NYS Law).
- c. BWI: Boating while impaired or intoxicated subject to fines or imprisonment (NYS Law).
- d. Fire extinguisher, distress signal and anchor are required on ALL motorized watercraft.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (NYS Law):

- a. Operators must wear an approved PFD.
- b. Operator must be attached with a cut-off device.
- c. Can only be operated between sunrise and sundown and the town ordinance speed limit on the lake is less than 6 mph between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. for any motorized vessel.
- d. May not be operated within 500 ft of a designated swimming area.
- e. Reckless operation prohibited (wake jumping, weaving through traffic, or other maneuvers that jeopardize safety).

REGISTRATION: All motorized watercraft must be registered and display the registration numbers (NYS Law).

ENVIRONMENT:

- a. Help keep unwanted aquatic plants and zebra mussels out of the lake. Thoroughly wash your vessel and flush the cooling system at a location away from the shoreline.
- b. Avoid spilling gasoline or oil. Repair leaks immediately.
- c. Dispose of litter properly in bins on shore.
- d. Do not use soaps or cleansers in or near the lake.

Common sense and respect for others are the way to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone using the lake. CLCS is not a law-enforcement agency and leaves such duties to the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, The CLCS has posted rules and regulations and distributes these excerpts to encourage lake users to know the rules and observe them.



Photo by Debra Ruggieri

Concerns about speed, noise, or safe handling of any motorized watercraft on the lake should be directed to:
COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 518-828-3344.



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
MON-FRI | 8-5pm


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How your organization works!

Why you should become an Annual Member of the Copake Lake Conservation Society, Inc. (CLCS). Only Annual Members in-good-standing** can elect our trustees.

*The Copake Lake Conservation Society, Inc. (CLCS), a tax exempt 501 (c) 3 volunteer organization, is managed by 7-25 trustees who are volunteers from the Copake lake community and who are elected each year by CLCS members-in-good-standing** at the Annual Meeting each July (typically held at the Greens Restaurant at the Copake Country Club from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon). The trustees manage the herbicide treatment program for Copake Lake each season and the trustees raise the funds to finance the treatments. Once elected at the Annual Meeting, by the members-in-good-standing, the trustees form a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has 30 days following the Annual Meeting to elect the officers of CLCS (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer). Officers serve two-year terms and may succeed themselves up to but no more than three times. Since trustees serve two-year terms, the members-in-good-standing of CLCS elect one-half of the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in July every year.*

Standing Committees are formed by the Board of Trustees (committees are listed in the CLCS newsletter on Page 2 and on the CLCS website). Committees are made up of trustees and members-in-good-standing. The president of CLCS names committee chairpersons from the trustees for a 1 year term. The chairpersons must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Each committee chairperson then names those trustees and members-in-good-standing to serve on the committee for 1 year. The committee chairperson submits the names of the committee members to the president. Individuals may serve on more than one committee. Please contact the chairperson of the committee(s) on which you would like to serve for one year if you are interested in joining and participating.

*Please see the CLCS Bylaws on the CLCS website under “Who We Are” for greater details about the organization. (www.copakelakecs.org)

**The fiscal year for CLCS is January 1-December 31. A CLCS member-in-good-standing has made an annual donation of at least \$150 each fiscal year. Only CLCS members-in-good-standing can vote for the trustees at the Annual Meeting in July.-

Jed Luchow,
Bylaws Committee



SAVE OUR LAKE!

August 8th
Copake Boat & Ski Marina

STOP ZEBRA MUSSELS!

What are they? Hint... the aren't zebras
Zebra mussels are invading—choking fish and clogging boats!

Let's muscle the mussels out!

JOIN US TO SUPPORT SHELL THE INVASION!

SAFETY Is Everyone's Responsibility

In an ongoing effort to promote safety on the lake, the CLCS Education and Safety Committee continues its partnership with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Together, we are committed to fostering a safe and enjoyable environment for all who use our lake.

Important Safety Regulations

- **Speed Restrictions (8 PM – 9 AM)**
A town ordinance limits boat speed to 6 mph between 8:00 PM and 9:00 AM. Please follow this rule to help ensure visibility and reduce nighttime risks.
- **Boating Safety Certificate Requirement – Effective January 1, 2025**
All motorized boat operators—regardless of age—must possess a NYS Boating Safety Certificate. This includes personal watercraft (PWCs). Certificates are issued after completing an approved safety course. Visit parks.ny.gov for course details and registration options.
- **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)**
 - Children under age 12 must always wear a PFD on any vessel
 - All PWC riders are required to wear a PFD.
 - PFDs must also be carried on kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards.
- **Buoys Must Be Permitted and Compliant**
All buoys placed on the lake require a valid permit & must be installed exactly as specified in the permit conditions.

Shared Responsibility on the Water

New York State boating laws are designed to protect everyone, it's not just law—it's a community value. Each of us plays a vital role in maintaining a safe environment on the lake. Staying aware of unsafe actions, alert to your surroundings, and respectful of others ensures that all can enjoy the water responsibly. Every decision made on the lake directly impacts neighbors, swimmers, paddlers, and boaters near and far. Your choices help protect everyone on the water and along the shoreline.

Reporting Unsafe Activity

If you observe unsafe behavior on the water, do not intervene directly.

Instead immediately contact the Columbia County Sheriff's Department @ (518) 828 3344

Looking Ahead - Wishing You a Safe & Enjoyable Summer!

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to making our lake a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable place for all. Together, we can ensure a fun and incident free 2026 season.

Debra Ruggieri,
Committee Chair
Safety/Education Committee

Maria Powers,
Vice Chair



“Safely enjoy a summer sunset over Copake Lake from County Route 7.”
Peter Christiansen guest of Bill Sweeney

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CLCS would like to thank Copake Lake Boat & Ski and Mickey's Marina for waiving launch fees and providing assistance to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, NEAR (Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC), and The Pond & Lakes Connection when these organizations come to Copake Lake. NEAR is responsible for sampling, measuring, recording, and analyzing data collected in spring, summer, and fall and reporting to CLCS members at the Annual Meeting. The Pond & Lakes Connection is responsible for using NEAR's data to work with the CLCS Lake Management Committee to plan out the annual herbicide treatments and general lake management.

2025 - July 4th Boat Parade winners "Blister in The Sun"



Congratulations!

Photo: Marano Family

Crew: Lisa McHale, Rich McHale, Riley McHale, Devin McHale, Joe Krausa, Matt Krausa, Kaitlyn Delvinthal, Kaleb Delvinthal, Morgan McHale

Be sure to watch for the 2026 Judging Station along Golf Course Road on Saturday, July 4, 2026. Rain or shine, starting promptly at 1p.m. from Southwest Colony. Come join in celebrating America's Birthday either by boat or land!

GET SOCIAL WITH @CopakeLakeCS #CLCS

GET SOCIAL WITH US

Nothing says community like the Copake Lake Conservation Society's Facebook and Instagram pages. Stay informed about timely updates, learn about events and see what your friends are saying.

Show your love: follow us and share your comments, photos and videos.



Tag @copakeLakeCS

#copakelakecs #clcs #ilovecopakelake #preservecopakelake

Copake Lake (CLCS) & Your Calendar

Calendar entry, April 29, 2024:

First hummingbird spotted!

Calendar entry, April 29, 2025:

First hummingbird spotted!

I am a calendar centric person. I like knowing and entering birthdays and anniversaries. The calendar serves as a reminder for me to call or send a card to connect with or honor or remember the people in my life. I also enter other important dates on my calendar, like April 29th. That's the date, for two years in a row our first hummingbirds arrived at our feeders near Copake Lake. Now that's always a cause for celebration after a long, cold winter in Copake! If there's a person or event on your calendar that you'd like to honor (or thank them for a great time, or send a card in memory of), why not donate (minimum of \$25) to our Copake Lake Conservation Society? The honoree or family will receive a beautiful card with a photo of Copake Lake. And, if you see me around town, ask about April 29th to see if our feathered friends arrived right on time!

Thank you everyone!

Cherie Berk,

Communication/Publicity Committee



NYS Rules and Regulations for Non-Motorized Watercraft (Kayaks, Paddleboards, etc.)

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be worn year-round by all children under 12 years of age on any boat less than 65 feet in length, unless within a fully enclosed cabin; by anyone engaging in towed activities, such as water-skiers or wake-boarders; and while on board a personal watercraft. Otherwise, a wearable life jacket must be available for every passenger on board every vessel, including non-motorized watercraft such as canoes and kayaks." New York State Boating Laws and Regulations, 2010, see www.nysparks.com/recreation/boating.

Along with rowboats, kayaks, canoes, and sailboats, paddle boards are considered boats and must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved, properly sized, serviceable, and readily accessible life jacket on board for each person, just like any other boat, mechanized or not. From May 2 through October 31 such persons are not required to wear a life jacket, though it is highly suggested (but they must have one on board and readily accessible).

From November 1 to May 1, everyone on all pleasure vessels which include paddleboards, rowboats, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, and motorboats must be wearing a life jacket while underway, which means as long as the boat is not anchored or tied to a dock. Drifting counts as underway.

Life jackets are the most important piece of equipment on a boat and can save your life; we recommend that they be worn at all times.

Thank you to Ro Woodard, Education Specialist, NYS Parks, Marine Service Bureau for helping to gather this information.

Education & Safety Committee

Swimmer's Itch: What Can Be Done?

Swimmer's itch is an itchy rash that can occur after you go swimming or wading outdoors. Also known as cercarial dermatitis, swimmer's itch is most common in freshwater lakes and ponds, but it occasionally occurs in salt water.

Swimmer's itch is a rash usually caused by an allergic reaction to parasites that burrow into your skin while you're swimming or wading in warm water.

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch normally live in waterfowl and some mammals. These parasites can be released into the water. Humans aren't suitable hosts, so the parasites soon die while still in your skin.

Swimmer's itch is uncomfortable, but it usually clears up on its own in a few days. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter or prescription medications.



SYMPTOMS

The itchy rash associated with swimmer's itch looks like reddish pimples or blisters. It may appear within minutes or days after swimming or wading in infested water.

Swimmer's itch usually affects only exposed skin — skin not covered by swimsuits, wet suits or waders. Signs and symptoms of swimmer's itch typically worsen with each exposure to the parasites.

WHEN TO SEE A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Talk to your doctor if you have a rash after swimming that lasts more than three days. If you notice pus at the rash site, consult your doctor. You might be referred to a health care provider who specializes in skin conditions.

CAUSES

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch live in the blood of waterfowl and in mammals that live near ponds and lakes. Examples include:

- Geese
- Ducks
- Gulls
- Beavers
- Muskrats

The parasite's eggs enter the water via their hosts' feces. Before infecting birds, other animals or people, the hatched parasites must live for a time within a type of snail. These snails live near the shoreline, which explains why infections occur most often in shallow water.

Swimmer's itch isn't contagious from person to person, so you don't need to worry about catching swimmer's itch from someone who has this itchy rash.

RISK FACTORS

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch live in the blood of waterfowl and in mammals that live near ponds and lakes. The more time you spend in infested water, the higher your risk of swimmer's itch. Children may have the highest risk, since they tend to play in

shallow water and are less likely to dry off with a towel.

Some people are more sensitive to swimmer's itch than others and your sensitivity can increase each time you're exposed to the parasites that cause swimmer's itch.

COMPLICATIONS

Swimmer's itch rarely leads to complications, but your skin can become infected if you scratch too vigorously. Try to avoid scratching the rash.

PREVENTION

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch live in the blood of waterfowl and in mammals that live near ponds and lakes. To reduce the risk of swimmer's itch:

- **Choose swimming spots carefully.** Avoid swimming in areas where swimmer's itch is a known problem or signs warn of possible contamination. Also avoid swimming or wading in marshy areas where snails are commonly found.
- **Avoid the shoreline, if possible.** If you're a strong swimmer, head to deeper water for your swim. You may be more likely to develop swimmer's itch if you spend a lot of time in warmer water near the shore.

- **Rinse after swimming.** Rinse exposed skin with clean water immediately after leaving the water, then vigorously dry your skin with a towel. Launder your swimsuits often.

- **Skip the bread crumbs.** Don't feed birds on docks or near swimming areas.

- **Apply waterproof sunscreen.** This has been reported to protect the skin from the parasite that causes swimmer's itch.

CAN SWIMMER'S ITCH BE CONTROLLED IN THE LAKE?

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch live in the blood of waterfowl and in mammals that live near ponds and lakes. To reduce the risk of swimmer's itch:

- The swimmer's itch parasite is very difficult to control in a natural setting without harming fish and other organisms. The host snails can be killed with high doses of copper sulfate, but a large area would have to be treated with the pesticide to make sure most of the snails were killed. Treating a large area with a high concentration of copper sulfate could cause a fish kill.

- A copper sulfate treatment was recently applied to reduce the clumps of filamentous algae. Controlling the algae and weed beds reduces the snail habitat, which may help to diminish the presence of the swimmer's itch parasite.

- This is not something that the CLCS is able to "fix" or "eliminate." The best course of action for swimmers is to continue to take the recommended precautions.

- Please let us know if you suspect you have swimmers itch by emailing info@copakelakecs.org and include in your email the date you were in the lake, where you were swimming and if you followed any of the outlined precautions.

Debra Ruggieri & Maria Powers

Education and Safety Committee


GIVING TUESDAY

We did it, Lake community! We CRUSHED our 2025 Giving Tuesday goal of \$8,000 and raised a whopping \$9,730! And some awesome anonymous donors are matching those donations, bringing the grand total to \$19,460!

This milestone is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together. Every dollar you've donated is already hard at work—protecting wildlife, keeping our lake clean and ensuring future generations can enjoy the natural beauty we all love.

The CLCS Board of Trustees would like to thank these 2025 Giving Tuesday donors

- | | | | |
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Thank You Copake Lake Conservation Society!

Your work has never been more important than it is today.



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TERM IN OFFICE	NAME
2025 - Present	Stuart Troyetsky
2025	Ilise Zimmerman
2014-2024	Debra Ruggieri
2010-2014	Denise Chickery
2006-2010	Dominick "Buddy" Sinisi
2003-2006	Dave Crow
1999-2003	Barbara Bunger
1995-1999	Lindsay LeBrecht
1994-1995	Barbara Bunger/Lindsay LeBrecht
1990-1994	Barbara Bunger
1989-1990	Joseph Gladstone
1987-1989	Tom Williams
1985-1987	Joseph Gladstone
1980-1985	Lucille Landers
1979-1980	Dr. Henry "Hy" Lowenheim <i>(founding president of CLCS, Inc. as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization)</i>

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2025 Year End: Copake Lake Conservation Society's BIRDHOUSE AND BIRDING REPORT at Copake Country & Copake Lake Watershed



Photo by Tom and Jack Walsh

Greetings, CLCS fellow bird admirers.

The 2025 birdhouse nesting season in our vicinity was a really strange one. On the golf course at Copake Country Club (where we've got 40 nest boxes posted), the number of successful nestings by our top tenants was down a lot, across the board:

- 12 successful Eastern Bluebird nests (we had 22 in '24).
- 18 successful Tree Swallow nests (20 in '24).
- 3 House Wren nests (5 in '24).

Nests failed in no less than 9 of the "traditional" boxes (the ones that are in plain sight alongside golf holes) around the course. Reasons for failure vary quite a bit, including:

- Attacks by House Sparrows, public enemy number one in the world of birdhouses;
- Extreme heat and cold. (In April extreme cold and in June an intense heat wave arrived at the peak of nesting season.
- Eggs get abandoned by adults.
- Eggs, or even babies, get pushed out of boxes by bad-guy competitors like house sparrows.
- Mice, chipmunks, and reach-in raccoons and squirrels are other suspects. Snake populations around here are allegedly low, but snakes will gladly eat eggs and hatchlings.

I removed 17 House Sparrow (HS) nest attempts from golf course boxes this year, a total almost three times higher than 2024's. Despite the regular and rigorous policing that we do, we found that HS attacks were way up. HS are the top reason why monitoring birdhouses is so important. As we point out every year, HS are invasive species whose nests we're officially advised to prevent.

Here are two links with much info:

www.sialis.org/hosp | www.sialis.org/monitoring

OUR BALD EAGLES

The annual "maybe babies?" hopes and dreams continue. The "Rock Stars" of the bird world. Our famous local Bald Eagle nest is on the former Braunstein property, just east of the golf course's 15th tee. I can provide details about where to observe it clearly but from a distance — birding law prohibits people from getting too close to Eagle nests.

For nearly 10 years, we had likely successful breeding in it by a pair of adults (Balds usually use the same nest for years). In 2023 and '24, nesting got underway, but then silence — we never found out if eggs had been laid, or hatched.

So starting in early March '25, an adult Bald was again showing me egg-sitting behavior on the nest. She and/or he was there regularly until mid-April. Followed by silence again — observable nest activity stopped, too early in the cycle

for us to conclude that the nesting had been successful. Adults were seen sporadically in the nest vicinity in months to follow. So for the third straight year, we closed the books on that Eagle nest with a question mark: Did they somehow breed successfully, appearances to the contrary? Was the nest abandoned early in the process? Unknown.

Anyway, apart from the fact that Bald Eagles are one of the coolest animals in North America, they also represent one of the great comeback stories in the world of birds (much like our close friend the Eastern Bluebird). It's among the many reasons they're worth so much of our time and effort.

OTHER RAPTORS

For 2025, here's a list of other birds of prey who were with us in the course/lake region, or at least gave us glimpses:

Common — Red-tailed hawk, osprey, turkey vulture, black vulture, Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawk

Our local owls (who announce themselves to us via audio-only 95 percent of the time; visual sightings are a major treat) — great horned owl, barred, Eastern screech, long-eared

ALL YEAR LONG

Always grateful for our many year-round resident birds. Too many to list, but they know who they are, and hopefully you do too. And a salute to an all-time favorite among birders, much more often heard than seen, the Dr. Seuss character known as the pileated woodpecker. Pileateds nest in self-created holes and occasionally in big boxes; we have a small but steady population of pileateds on the course, so I posted an appropriate box in the woods 50 yards west of the 14th green. Hope springs eternal.

WINTER DUCKS

Starting in November, Copake Lake started displaying its annual arrival of our so-called winter ducks — waterfowl that veer south in search of open water to forage in as cold deepens up north.

DATA

I register most of our nesting data on the NestWatch site, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. (nestwatch.org)

Thank you as always to the Urban and Mauri families, for their ongoing support and encouragement of our golf course birdhouse empire. And to the great staff and golf regulars at the Copake Country Club and the Greens Restaurant.

Tom Walsh,
CLCS Member/Volunteer

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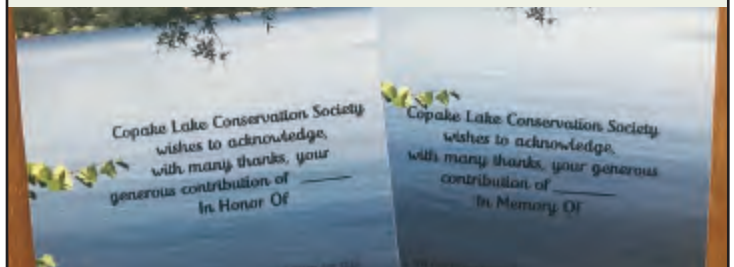
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