

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Volume 35

One Lake One Community

Fall 2017

Mission Statement

The Honeoye Valley Association is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization that works in a variety of ways to protect and preserve the environmental quality of the Honeoye Lake watershed.

The HVA acts as an advocate for the protection and improvement of the Honeoye Lake Watershed. Activities include communicating with governmental agencies and political representatives, educational outreach, monitoring of the lake ecosystem, and acting as a clearinghouse for information related to these activities.

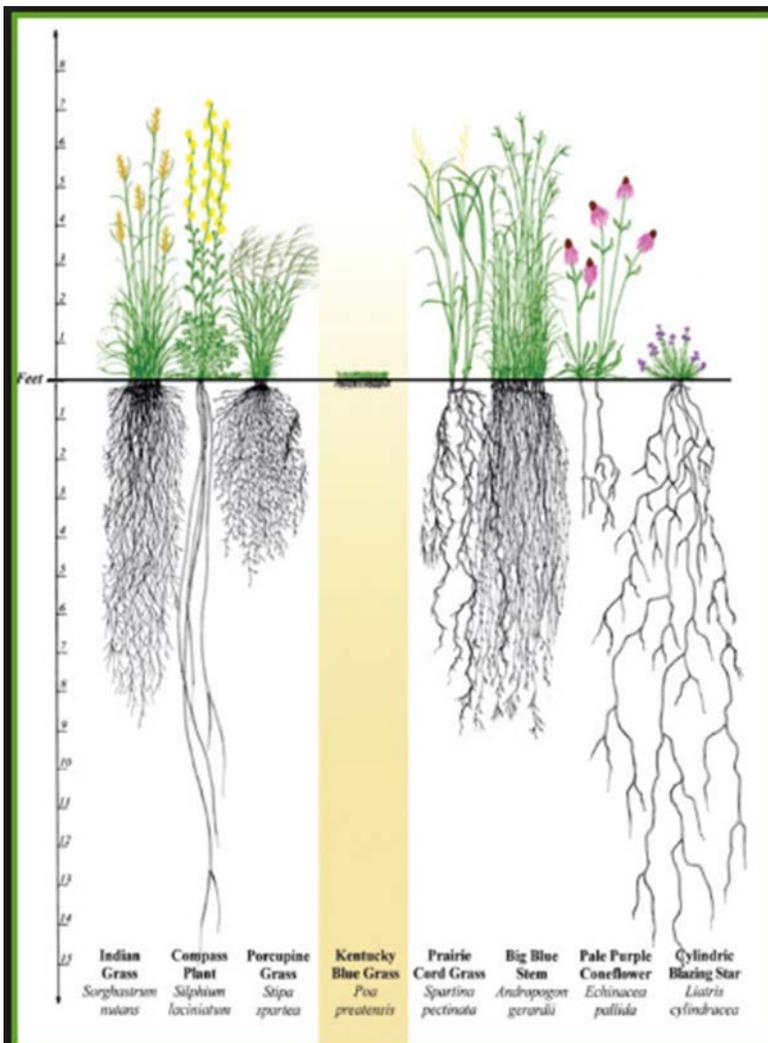


Illustration: Conservation Research Institute
Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

In this Issue:

Why Plant Native Species?
Edith Davey

2016-2017 DEC Fishing Diary Report
Pete Austerman, Aquatic Biologist

HVA Membership Form

Registration Form: NYSFOLA Annual Meeting

**HVA Summer 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species
Outreach Initiatives:**

Researchers Taking Aim at Blue-Green Algae

**Reprint of Messenger Post article: "Honeoye, One
of the Smallest of the Finger Lakes, is the Site of
Research with a Far-reaching Impact"**

**Results of HVA Fall Food Drive for the Honeoye
Food Pantry**



Why Plant Native Species?

By Edith Davey

Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District

For assistance with soil erosion control, lawn care, landscaping and other related issues contact:

**Ontario County Soil &
Water Conservation District**
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua NY 14424
585-396-1450

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Ontario County**
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua NY 14424
585-394-3977



Why Plant Native Species?

Natural landscaping is the newest – and oldest - word in home landscaping. All across North America, more and more people are landscaping their homes, schools, businesses and churches with native species. Why all the interest?

Native species are plants that grow naturally in particular areas; they were established originally without human introduction or intervention. These plants have several appealing factors.

Native plants are low-maintenance. Vigorous and hardy, they have adapted to local pests, climate and soils over millennia. They survive winter cold and summer heat. Once established, they require no fertilization or irrigation. Reducing fertilizer runoff to the lake reduces aquatic plant growth.

Native plants stay put. Natives rarely become invasive. The interactions of other plants, animals and micro-organisms in a native plant community keep populations in check. Introduced species lack these natural checks and balances: some of our worst invasive species came here as ornamentals.

Native plants give back to their community. Birds, butterflies, native bees, amphibians and other desirable wildlife receive food and shelter from native plants. Introduced ornamentals lack similar habitat value.

Native plants have deep roots. Root systems hold soil in place and help water infiltrate, reducing soil erosion and runoff. Mature tree roots reach down to the upper levels of the water table. Smaller trees, such as dogwood, form a dense web of roots that extend downward for several feet.

Turf grass roots commonly reach down to a length equal to their top growth. Mowing the lawn to a height of 3 inches produces 3 inches of root growth. Mowing to the recommended 4 inches allows a 4 inch root growth. Neither of these offers much soil erosion protection.

Native plants are interesting. Native plants reveal a diversity of form, foliage, flowers, textures, heights and shapes. Many have interesting bark or seedpods that are visible in the winter. Many were used in Native American culture for food, medicines or dyes. Others were used by European settlers for similar domestic purposes. Native plants provide a growing link to the past.

Native plants give you more leisure. Leave the landscaping to Mother Nature rather than spending time, effort and money to turn your Honeoye Lake home into an urban landscape. Why clear out the natural plants to install others that need pampering, mowing, watering, weeding, spraying, pruning, staking and defending from the native wildlife? Relax. Restore your shore to what the “original designer” intended. Leave that mower in the storage shed, unfold that lawn chair and listen to the birds sing in the (native) trees.

2016-17 NYSDEC Honeoye Lake Angler Survey Participant Letter

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources - Bureau of Fisheries
6274 E. Avon-Lima Road, Avon, New York 14414-9516
Phone: (585) 226-2466 • Fax: (585) 226-6323

The following is annotated from a letter dated June 19, 2017 from the NYSDEC to a local fisherman participating in the annual Honeoye Lake Angler Survey. This program provides helpful information, especially important during years that the DEC cannot sample Honeoye Lake. If you, or anyone you know is interested in joining the diary program, please have them contact the Fisheries office at 585-226-5343.

Dear Angler,

Thank you for returning your 2016-2017 Honeoye Lake angler diaries. Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information, referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary.

During the 2016-2017 fishing season, 21 diary cooperators reported 1,580 hours of fishing from 632 fishing trips. A total of 2,552 game fish and 193 panfish were reported caught. On average, anglers took 0.66 hours to catch one legal game fish (1.5 per hour). This is a very good catch and is similar to last year. The high catch rate for game fish continues to be driven by excellent largemouth bass fishing.

Black Bass

Largemouth bass continue to make up most of the game fish catch, representing 96% of all game fish caught. A total of 2,446 largemouth bass were caught and 378 were harvested. Largemouth bass catch rates in Honeoye Lake continue to be some of the best in the state.

The average length of largemouth bass with reported lengths was 13.5 inches, which is similar to last year. Eighty-seven percent of largemouth bass with reported lengths were in the 10 to 15 inch size range, while 11% were over 15 inches. The remaining 2% were less than 10 inches. Although the largemouth bass population might benefit from a reduction in the population size, increased angler harvest may not lead to significant changes given that there is an extremely abundant population of bass at this time.

The number of smallmouth bass reported was up slightly from last year. A total of 23 smallmouth bass were caught and none were harvested. The average length of smallmouth bass with reported lengths was 15.6 inches.

Walleye

This year 25 walleye were caught with 14 harvested. Anglers who were specifically targeting walleye had a catch rate of 0.14 walleye/hour. Total catch and catch rate were both down compared to last year. The average length of walleye with reported lengths was 17.9 inches. There was a slight increase in the number of sub-legal walleye reported which could contribute to the fishery in the next few years.

Unfortunately, the size limit for walleye on Honeoye Lake was inadvertently changed back to 15 inches during the fishing regulation change procedure. We plan to change this regulation back to 18 inches as soon as we can if the status of the walleye population does not change dramatically. On a positive note, we will be moving forward with walleye fingerling stocking. We plan to stock fingerlings every other year and continue with fry stocking on opposite years. Fingerlings will be much larger than the fry that have been stocked in Honeoye Lake for many years and we hope that their survival will be better and lead to a boost in the population.

Chain Pickerel

Catch of chain pickerel was down slightly compared to last year but was still well above the long term average. The average length of harvested pickerel was 22.9 inches.

Thanks again for providing us with very useful fishing information for Honeoye Lake and Good luck with the upcoming fishing season - Pete Austerman, Aquatic Biologist

23rd ANNUAL REGION 1 MEETING

NYS FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

TOPICS

1. Panel Discussion - Contact persons from Genesee, Brockport, U. at Buffalo and R.I.T. discuss ways associations can use college programs more effectively
2. Dr. Joseph Atkinson - head of the Environmental Engineering Department of U. at Buffalo
3. Doug Conroy of Chautauque Lake Association talks about CLA's connection with Fredonia, Jamestown C.C., etc.
4. Meg Wilkinson, Invasive Species Database Program Coordinator, Natural Heritage Program, shows how to use the IMA? Invasive System on your phone. Assisting her in the show and tell program will be students from E.S.F and R.I.T.

OCTOBER 21, 2017

10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

SILVER LAKE GOLF CLUBHOUSE

3820 CLUB ROAD, PERRY, NEW YORK 14530

LUNCH MENU

Roast Beef and gravy or baked Chicken entree, baked potato bar or mac and cheese, bread/butter, salad, dessert and coffee. Other beverages available for purchase

** A fee of \$15.00 and registration is due no later than **October 12, 2017**. Send the Registration form and check to **Mark Emmerson, 3758 Shearman Road, Perry, New York, 14530**. Checks should be made out to **-NYSEOLA or New York State Federation of Lake Associations**. Registration is also available on the NYSEOLA website using Paypal. Questions? Call Don Cook at 585-367-9293.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF PARTICIPANTS - _____

Total Number _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____

Mailing Address - _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

DIETARY NEEDS _____



The Honeoye Valley Association Needs Your Help!

Please join or renew your membership to support the ongoing efforts of the HVA

* Join and pay online at <http://www.hvaweb.org/>
OR complete the application form below and mail to
Honeoye Valley Association
P.O. Box 165

Honeoye, NY 14471

The HVA acts as an advocate for the protection and improvement of the Honeoye Lake Watershed. Activities include communicating with governmental agencies and political representatives, educational outreach, monitoring of the lake ecosystem, and acting as a clearinghouse for information related to these activities.

HVA Membership Form – please print clearly

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email Address: _____

	Mailing Address	Lake Address
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if same as mailing address
Street:		
City:		
State:		
Zip:		
Phone #:		

Single Membership: \$ 20.00 Family membership: \$30.00

Cash Check _____ Please invoice me

Additional tax-deductible donation for lake projects: \$ _____
(The HVA is a 501-3c registered charitable organization)

I am interested in assisting with HVA activities, please contact me for more information. My area of interest/expertise is: _____ (optional)

HVA Summer 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Initiatives:

If you launched a watercraft this summer, may have noticed the new aquatic invasive species (AIS) signs at the Sandy Bottom Park boat launch and the Trident Marine boat launch. These new signs are part of a collaborative outreach campaign spearheaded by the HVA to raise awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) through recreational boating.

The signs urge boat owners to “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” by employing a few simple steps into their launching routine when visiting Honeoye Lake or neighboring lakes. By using these proper clean, drain, dry techniques, lake users can do their part to help prevent the transport of harmful invasive species that may have adverse impacts on our local ecosystem.

As a compliment to the new signage, the HVA has also developed a new aquatic invasive species brochure “Help Protect Honeoye Lake”, which details the steps that boaters can take to minimize their impact. This brochure highlights three invasive species that are of particular concern – Starry stonewort, Water chestnut, and Hydrilla – which is now considered to be the most problematic aquatic plant in the Finger Lakes region. Each of these species poses a threat to Honeoye Lake as they can form dense mats that can impede native fish and plant habitat, and can fill the water column or water surface to limit recreational use. As of 2017, Honeoye Lake is free of these three species – so prevention is key to protect it!

Copies of the brochure can be picked up at the Honeoye Library, and can be made available to lake residents upon request. Consider spreading the word to your neighbors, or leaving a few copies at your rental property for folks that may be visiting the area.

The HVA thanks our partners at the Town of Richmond and Trident Marine for recognizing the importance of educating the public about threat of AIS and installing the new signs at the launch sites. We also thank the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith College for providing funding for the signs and brochures.

Stop the Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species:

- **CLEAN** boat, trailer, and gear of visible aquatic plants, fish, animals, and mud
- **DRAIN** bilge, ballast, wells & buckets before you leave the area
- **DRY** equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water



RESEARCHERS TAKING AIM AT THE BLUE GREEN ALGAE

On Honeoye Lake and the nutrients found at the bottom of the lake.

by Jim Madalinsky (WHAM)



The complete article can be found
<http://13wham.com/news/local/researchers-taking-aim-at-blue-green-algae>

According to the DEC, (at the time of reporting in early August) 60 waterways in the state are currently having at least some issues with the algae. Honeoye Lake is one of them, and that's where Nelson Hairston and his team of researchers are trying to learn more about the nuisance.

Hairston is the chair of Cornell University's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He's partnered with Finger Lakes Community College and the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force as part of a three-year grant to learn more about blue-green algae.

Hairston believes the algae is being fueled by nutrients at the bottom of the lake. Through taking weekly samples and monitoring weather conditions, he believes the weather is part of the reason the algae is becoming more common.

"The lake doesn't stay frozen nearly as long in the spring as it used to, so the water temperatures start to warm sooner," said Hairston.

"This is the only way that we're going to make a difference in the short to medium term, is to understand where this is coming from," said Terry Gronwall of the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force.

2017 Food Pantry Food Drive - Best to Date!



"On the Saturday morning of Labor Day weekend, from 7:30AM until noon, the Honeoye Valley Association conducted its annual food drive to benefit the Honeoye Food Pantry.

The HVA received food donations at 2 locations (the Richmond Town Hall and West's Shurfine in Honeoye) during the annual drive. A record-breaking 1845 lbs. of foodstuff and over \$1000 in cash was collected, making this the most successful food drives in the HVA's history!

Many thanks go out to all those who helped support this wonderful endeavor and to the Town of Richmond and West's Shurfine for their continued support. In addition, a special thank you to all the HVA members and Honeoye Food pantry members who volunteered their time and efforts to make this event so successful.

Honeoye, One of the Smallest of the Finger Lakes, is the Site of Research with a Far-reaching Impact.

By Julie Sherwood



For complete and original article:
[http://www.mpnnow.com/news/20170831/
little-lake-sees-big-developments-with-
honeoye-research](http://www.mpnnow.com/news/20170831/little-lake-sees-big-developments-with-honeoye-research)

New research on Honeoye Lake could crack the code for what ails that lake and waterways everywhere: Harmful blue-green algae. The project involving citizens, students and scientists has this summer uncovered new clues to what spawns and fuels those nasty algae blooms that plague Honeoye and other lakes.

Algae can multiply quickly in waterways with an overabundance of nitrogen, which is the focus of the study that has been taking place this summer. Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges received a \$25,000 grant from Great Lakes Research Consortium and state Department of Environmental Conservation to research the role of nitrogen in harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes Basin.

This research brings in the expertise of nitrogen experts to the Finger Lakes region, Mark McCarthy and Silvia Newell from Wright State University.

Blooms often use nitrogen from the atmosphere, said Razavi, a former post-doctoral researcher at the Finger Lakes Institute. But now, they are seeing a lot more blooms that cannot use nitrogen from the atmosphere, “so it’s getting nitrogen from the lake,” she said.

The work involves measuring the different types of nitrogen, the rates and how they change. “We are just figuring it all out,” she said. Razavi said the project on Honeoye Lake is far-reaching. “It’s not just Honeoye Lake. This trend we are seeing all over the world with an increase in harmful algal blooms.”

Digging Deeper

On Honeoye Lake, weekly sampling began in May.

“The forms of nitrogen and the way we sample are really important differences to how nitrogen has been collected before on Honeoye Lake,” said Razavi,

“What’s different about our sampling is that we measure for ammonium, which is not often included in monitoring programs. Ammonium is really hard to measure accurately. But it is really important,” Razavi said, adding it’s the form of nitrogen that the blue-green algae can use the most easily to convert to growth and produce toxin.

The project involves collaborating with Wright State University to do controlled experiments in the lab with sediment and water collected on the lake. Researchers did this once in June and will do it again in September. They are considering doing this controlled experiment in the winter, as well, to get an idea of what’s going on under the ice that might contribute to summer blue green algae blooms.

As a small lake, Honeoye is easy to work on. “We don’t often have wind or waves that make it hard for us to sample, and we can get from one site to the other very quickly,” Razavi said. *(continued on page 8)*

Honeoye Valley Association
P. O. Box 165
Honeoye, New York 14471

Continued from page 7:

Attacking from shore

The program removes weeds from the lake, which also removes nutrients in excessive plant growth that contributes to growth of blue-green algae. It is the only lake management strategy currently in place that removes nutrients already in the lake, said Betsy Landre, point person for the project and a senior planner with Ontario County.

The work barge complements weed harvesting by moving along shore to pick up weeds accumulated on shore and in places the harvester can't reach. The harvester removes nuisance weeds and nutrients from the lake. The work barge removes nuisance weeds and nutrients from the shoreline.

Landre said dense vegetation around Honeoye Lake puts a damper on recreation such as swimming and boating, making it hard for people to get their boats out of hoists or from their docks into deeper water. She said this year was particularly prolific for weed growth on the lake, preceded by two lighter seasons in 2015 and 2016.

“We are seeking to make our program more strategic using a more surgical approach, cutting where and when weed growth is most problematic to users while leaving other areas alone for longer periods of time,” Landre said. “It is challenging because the lake is very dynamic. We are encouraging more communication with residents and many do stay in touch with us regarding conditions around their home and neighborhoods. We are also using aquatic vegetation mapping software to guide our operations.”

“The lake’s natural condition is very productive, and we are not going to change that,” Landre said. “Using the tandem approach of harvester and shoreline barge cleanup, along with the cooperation of residents, we have a greater opportunity to help residents and visitors enjoy Honeoye Lake.”