

MELODY LAKE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2022

BRING BACK UNITY TO THE COMMUNITY

The past few years have made it more and more difficult to bring our members together. The family picnic has been canceled 2 years in a row. People have been reluctant to get together around the fire or do anything as a group of more than a few. During this time, we have had several properties change hands but have a hard time getting out to meet and greet our new neighbors. Thanks to association secretary Kelly Cerroni and member Andi Eastman, we have had some events that have allowed many of us to spend some time enjoying each other's company and hopefully these events, and maybe some new events, will continue into 2022. More about these events can be found later in this newsletter. Feel free to contact Kelly with any suggestions you have. Her contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Being an association of more than 85 members, it's impossible to have everyone agree on all issues. With all the differences in the world, it's easy to disagree with views on politics, religion, lifestyle, weather, and the condition of the world in general. It's good to have our personal "opinions" but in order for our association and our lake to thrive and survive, we do have to agree what needs to be done to protect our lake. If we surveyed our 85 members, I'm sure we would end up with at least 85 different views about what a perfect lake and lake association would look like. In this newsletter we will look at some past concerns that we have had and how they were handled. You will see that when addressed by an individual, or a small group of members, many times things didn't work out the way it was intended. It seems that the larger the group providing input for a solution to a project, the better the outcome.

We will also try to convince you that it is important that you give us around 3 hours a year to attend the three association meetings and let your thoughts be known regarding some current and future concerns and attempt to convince you that we do need your help and your ideas to address these concerns successfully.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2 – Real Important Stuff

Page 3 – A Few Words From The President's Desk

Page 4 – Problems From the Past

Page 5 – What Lies Ahead

Page 6 – Chinese Mystery Snails

Page 7 – Snail Map

Page 8 – Past Events & Upcoming Events

Page 9 – Contact Information, News From the Dam

Page 10 – Permits

Page 11 – Fishing @ Melody Lake

Page 12 – Did You Ever Wonder, Be the Hit of the Cookout

Page 13 – Our Watershed

Page 14 – 15 – 2021 NYSFOLA Conference

Page 16 – 21 – Snail ID, SPONSOR'S PAGES

Remember that the 2022 dues were due no later than February 15th. If yours are not yet paid they are now past due. Please send a check for \$100 made payable to "Melody Lake Association" to Steve Smith, 824 Tyler St, Johnson City NY 13790. You will be sent your 2022 guest passes when your dues are paid in full.

Melody Lake Association was formed on June 22nd, 1964 to: 1) Aid and promote the preservation and protection of Melody Lake and the land around it. 2) To aid in the protection of fish and game in such lake and area. 3) To promote and cultivate social relationships among its members; and 4) To undertake programs and activities calculated to advance the above purposes

IMPORTANT PHONE #'S, EMAILS, DATES AND INFORMATION

Melody Lake Association
PO Box 95
Willet, NY 13863
www.stny.info/melodylake

or visit us on Facebook

HOW TO CONTACT:

Association Officers:

President – Bob Rosati (607)863-4425 rcrosati@frontiernet.net

Vice President – Theresa Tyner (352)597-1211
exitviprealty@gmail.com

Secretary – Kelly Cerroni (607)760-2311 kellycccc7@gmail.com

Treasurer - Steve Smith (607)729-8823, sjstev@gmail.com

Member at Large – Bob Eastman (607)722-3294,
bob@ceserve.com

Webmaster – Jim Pratt – (607)775-4925 jpratt@stny.rr.com

Emergency Response

NY State Police – (607)756-5604 or 911

Cortland County Sheriff – (607)753-3311 or 911

Fire & Ambulance – 911

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation:

Conservation Officer – 1-844-332-3267 (24 hr)

Forest Ranger -

Permits – 1-800-388-8244 or (607)753-3095

Dam Safety – (518)402-8150

Town Government Officials:

Willet Town Hall – 863-4877 (for building permits)

Town Supervisor – Alvin (Sandy) Doty – 863-3252

Town Clerk – Annie Wilcox – 863-4329

Highway Superintendent – Geno Turshman 863-3265

Code Enforcement – 749-8299 or 345-0759

Tax Assessor – Frances J Butler 849-6966

Other:

Cortland County Health – 753-5035 (permits for wells & septic)

Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation – 756-5991

DOGS AROUND THE LAKE:

Remember that your dog must be under your control at all times. If the dog is loose, they must remain on your property. Every year we receive complaints from people walking around the lake that they are confronted by loose dogs. Excessive barking is also a nuisance and is in violation of the Town ordinance. All complaints should be referred to the Town of Willet Dog Warden. (Country Acres Animal Shelter – 749-2734)

There are new operating hours for the Willet Post Office:

Mon – Fri : 10 AM – 12 noon & 1 PM – 3 PM

Sat – 9 AM – 11:45 AM

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter by Melody Lake Association's diverse group of volunteers may not necessarily reflect the views held by the Association, its members, or its sponsors.

THE MEETINGS FOR MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION FOR 2022 WILL BE HELD AT 12:00 NOON ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE WILLET TOWN HALL (unless decided otherwise). MEETING DATES FOR 2020 ARE:

JUNE 12th

JULY 10th

AUGUST 14th

ASSOCIATION PICNIC –to be decided

YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ASSOCIATION. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE MEETING TO ABOUT 1 HOUR HOWEVER WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL IMPORTANT TOPICS ARE DISCUSSED.

The Town of Willet Town Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM. The meetings for 2022 are:

January 13th February 10th

March 10th April 14th

May 12th June 9th

July 14th August 10th

September 8th October 13th

November 10th December 8th

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL PROPERTY OWNERS AND THEIR GUESTS THAT EVEN THOUGH MELODY LAKE IS A PRIVATE LAKE, ALL NYS LAWS APPLY. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING AND MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS. ALSO REMEMBER THAT ALL BOATS THAT ARE POWERED BY AN ELECTRIC MOTOR (INCLUDING PONTOON BOATS) MUST BE REGISTERED. ALL NON-NYS RESIDENTS MUST HAVE A NONRESIDENT FISHING/HUNTING LICENSE.

CORTLAND/CHENANGO RURAL SERVICES

NEARLY NEW SHOP (gently used clothing)

2704 Lower Cincinnatus Rd, Cincinnatus, NY

Located at the Catholic Church (607)863-3828

Mon - Fri – 10:00 am – 2pm

Sat–9 am –12 noon (also Local Farmers Market in season)

Free Library Box outside anytime

Stop by for a free cup of coffee.

Remember that the speed limit on Melody Lake Rd. is 30 mph and on Melody Lane is 10 mph. Also parking on Melody Lake Road is prohibited unless you are completely off the road. Please remind your visitors and everyone that you may be doing business with such as contractors, fuel delivery companies, etc. Also remember that “off road” vehicles (ATV's, UTV's, etc.) are not allowed on any association property including Melody Lane and the pasture property and other rights of way.



SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Bob Rosati

2021 is over and what a year it was. Watching people walking around the lake wearing masks was like watching a zombie movie. When summer was over, things started opening up. People started returning to work, schools reopened, inside dining was once again possible, even movie theaters were opened. We made it through the holidays but once again we are being told to stay away from crowds, wear a mask, get a shot every three months. Hopefully things slow down before we get back to enjoying the lake and our neighbors around it.

The association elections were held at the August meeting and for once in a long time, two of the offices (president and member at large) were challenged, however the current board members were reelected by a large margin. Does this mean we are doing everything right??? Absolutely not. Keep in mind that all board members are doing their best to follow the laws and the rules and regulations of NYS. We are volunteers and do make some mistakes. We do make every effort to do what is right and do appreciate you pointing out politely when we do screw up. Over the past couple years, we have had a small group of members that want to question every decision made by the board. They have even gone as far as to demand that we seek legal advice to make sure that we have done things correctly. I am proud to say that so far, that advice seems to show that we (the board) were correct. Quite often, the same group questions the advice given by the attorneys we have hired. Unfortunately, that advice cost us more than a few thousand dollars which could have gone towards a better project. We'll look at some examples later in this newsletter.

Over the years, the association seems to have become more and more divided. Over the past several years this seems to be a trend. When things are good people seem to focus on their personal concerns but when there is a potential problem that affects us all we seem to "stick together" to address the problem. Unfortunately, once that problem is resolved, we then seem to drift apart until the next problem comes along. From talking to other associations this seems to be a common practice. Again, in this newsletter we will look at some examples to see how working together works better than working alone. We will also look at some possible future concerns that we need to address together with input from everyone. The rules at Melody Lake are few but there are always a few members that feel that these rules don't apply to them. If you are one of these, I ask you to look at a copy of your deed. You will see that your deed contains a "covenant" that states that you have rights to use the lake, and association property. It also contains the covenant that states "This conveyance is made and accepted subject to the By-Laws or, rules and regulations, adopted or hereafter adopted by Melody Lake Association of Cortland County. FYI, this is a legal document and a covenant is a legal agreement or handshake between you and the association, to do, or not do, a certain thing. If you believe that these few rules do not apply to you then may have purchased property at the wrong lake and it tells me something about your word and your character. Also, keep in mind that NYS Not For Profit Law states that By-Laws, rules and regulations are enforceable in NYS Courts.

Let's look at some problems and concerns from the past

Pasture Property:

When the property around Melody Lake was subdivided, the association was deeded the sole ownership to the shoreline around the lake except for 4.1 acres at the southwest end which was owned by a local farmer. In 1976 this parcel was going to be sold off for \$6,500 by the Farmers Home Administration. The association board was concerned that if sold, we could lose control of what might happen to our beautiful lake. The membership at the time voted to purchase the property and designate it to remain "forever wild" and never be subdivided or developed. At the time, the dues were only \$10/ year so a 30 year mortgage was agreed to with \$1000 down. It was voted and approved to raise the dues to \$20 and also seek donations from members to pay down the loan. The donations were made from the majority of the members and the loan was paid off in year.

Melody Lake Dam:

In the early 1980's, our dam failed a safety inspection conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the dam was ordered to be brought up to current regulations or removed. An engineering firm was hired and the estimated cost was well over a quarter of a million dollars. Some members even suggested that we call their bluff and see what happens. We were reminded by a member that we were an "association" which according to Webster meant that we were a "group of people, working together for a common cause". Thanks to the group of volunteers we had at that time, we were able to bring our dam up to standards for around \$60,000. Each member was assessed a one-time \$600 fee which was paid by every member except one (that person sold their property and moved on). This also brought our membership closer together. Before this problem, our average annual paid membership was about 30%. Since that time, we have brought our paid membership up to 100% and have remained there for the past 20+ years. Very few lake associations can make that claim.

Eurasian Milfoil:

In the mid 1990's a good share of the lake was being taken over with an invasive non-native aquatic weed known as Eurasian milfoil. There were several areas that this vegetation was so dense you could not swim or fish. Several members tried to attack the problem individually by cutting the weeds around their shoreline. The problem was that milfoil spreads quickly when the cuttings drifted away without being harvested which caused other areas of the lake to be infested. Before long, this problem spread to the entire lake. While there were aquatic herbicides available on the market to address the concern, it was clear that most property owners wanted to avoid putting weedkiller into our lake. The board decided to hold a special meeting where we invited various vendors of companies that worked in the business of treating aquatic vegetation with chemical, mechanical or biological means. After the sales pitch, the majority of the members voted to try the stocking of sterile triploid grass carp. A permit was applied for with DEC and in May 1996, 175 carp were stocked into the lake at a cost of \$9.00 each. Rather than deplete our funds, Carol Rosati suggested an "adopt a carp" program where members could donate \$10 to pay for a carp. In return, the member would receive an adoption certificate to proudly display at their cottage. This program was so successful that not 1 cent of association funds were spent on the purchasing or stocking of the fish. While the stocking did rid the lake of most of the milfoil, in 2007 it was decided to apply for another permit to stock an additional 350 fish. Since the first stocking was so successful, this number was voted against by several members, but the board overruled and the 350 were stocked. Today, our fish population has suffered due to the lack of weeds everywhere in the lake. Now 13 years later our aquatic vegetation is just starting to come back.

Keyhole Development:

Keyhole development, aka. Funneling, is when a property owner decides to subdivide his property and sell a portion of it while extending his rights and privileges to the new purchaser of that subdivided property. This is a big problem of several lake associations. In 2007, the association was notified by the Cortland County Health Dept, that a current association member had purchased

a large parcel adjacent to his property with the intent of subdividing his new parcel into several smaller parcels and grant those subdivided lots his rights to Melody Lake, by allowing them to funnel thru his existing lot. Thanks to the determination of member Glenn Diego, who was vice-president at that time, who spent countless hours in modifying the by-laws to stop the development while ensuring that this did not ever happen again.



**SO ...WHAT LIES
AHEAD ???**

OFF ROAD VEHICLES

In August 2005, a few members asked about why we don't allow off road vehicles (ATV, UTV, Golf Carts etc.) to be used on Melody Lane and other association property. It was suggested that we check with our insurance company to see what their thoughts were. On August 22, 2005 we received a letter from Gray & Sons Agency stating that they posed the question to our underwriter at Midstate Mutual Insurance Co who advised us that they would recommend that we do not permit off road vehicles on association property due to the increase of our liability. The letter went on to say that "any changes in our liability could jeopardize our standing with the company resulting in the increase of our premium and even the cancellation of our policy". That seemed to put an end to the concern until 2021, when we changed insurance companies and the question came up again. The new insurance company, Joy Insurance Agency was asked the same question and when they checked with their underwriter, Erie Insurance, replied that they do not dictate what we do or do not allow, however, if there is ever a claim involving this type of activity, they would not pay any claim. The policy clearly states that the company would never honor a claim from any activity allowed by us that could be viewed as an obvious liability. If allowed, this would most surely result in a lawsuit

against the association since it was an activity allowed and maybe even encouraged by the association. We also checked with NYSDMV and were told that neither ATV's or UTV's are allowed on any road unless that road is designated for such use by the municipality. The law also states that these types of vehicles are not allowed on any private property without written permission from the property owner. We assure you that we have never given anyone, member or nonmember, permission to operate these types of vehicles on association property.

Every year, there are a few new owners of property at Melody Lake. We try to welcome them while asking them what made them decide on Melody Lake. There are several answers but the #1 & 2 are that we are a "private" lake with limited, controlled access and it is a quiet and peaceful place to get away from the chaotic world around us. Many feel that by allowing ATV use could change that. Your Thoughts?????

Damage done to association property by unauthorized "off road" vehicle use



CHINESE MYSTERY SNAILS



Look around.....they're everywhere. Our lake is being taken over by an aquatic invasive species that were identified by the Nature Conservancy a few years back. Research shows that they are showing up in more and more lakes nationwide. Originally brought from Southeast Asia in the late 19th century, possibly as a food source, into the San Francisco area and have since spread throughout the US by the aquarium business, fishing and boating. They will outcompete our native snails for food and space. The only way to get rid of them is manually by nets or hand. They are a known carrier of parasites that may be harmful to humans, pets and wildlife. Chemicals are not effective since the snail has a "trap door" mechanism which they can close when they sense a decrease in water conditions. We recently were told that a neighboring pond which drains into our lake has had them for years and most probably was the source for their presence in Melody Lake. We have had several conversations with DEC Invasive Species Unit and they admit that they know very little about them. We have even offered to make Melody Lake available to them to conduct some research on them but they didn't seem too interested. It is my belief that until they start affecting more important lakes (to DEC) such as Lake George, Finger Lakes, etc. little will be done to control them.

In the summer of 2021, we decided to experiment with removing the snails manually. With the help and sponsorship of Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) we chose July 17th to hold our 1st Annual Mystery Snail Roundup. A couple days before we were visited by 2 staff members from the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) who spent 6 hours kayaking and snorkeling the lake measuring and assessing the snail population. With the use of a .25 meter frame that was placed 50 meters apart around the entire perimeter of the lake and the snails within

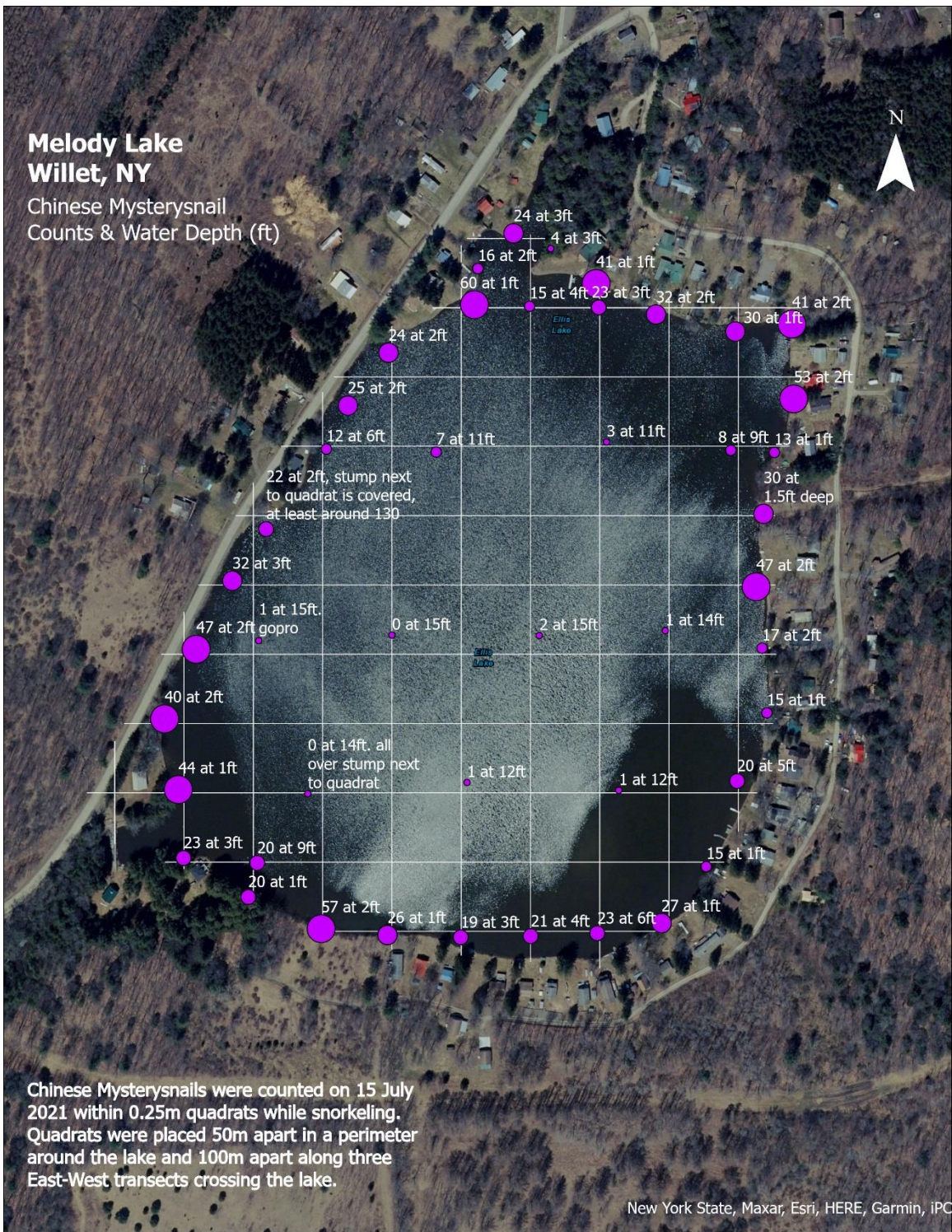
the frame were counted and recorded (see the map on the next page). As you can see from this random sampling, our snail population must be in the millions. On the day of the roundup we were joined by 2 interns from CCSWCD where a short welcome and information session was held with 38 association members present. After that, several attendees remained at the right of way while others returned to their lakeshore to roundup some snails. There were reports from our members resulting of more than 7,000 – 8,000 snails being removed and destroyed that day and throughout the remaining summer months.

So where do we go from here? Some things our members have observed are:

- Member Glenn Diego observed that the snails like to attach to any type of structure. He suggested that cinder blocks, branches or just about anything else be placed in the water and removed throughout the summer and remove the snails collected and replace the structure back in the water.
- Member Greg Cliff noticed that if a benthic mat is placed in the water, the snails adhere to it. When the mat is removed it will be covered with several dozen (or more) snails which are then removed and the mat is put back into the lake. Hopefully we can find 10 or more lakeside property owners to volunteer to try this at their lakeshore. The association will purchase the mats and give to the property owner to install. Although these mats are made for weed control which requires a DEC permit, we have been assured by DEC that no permit is necessary as long as the mats are removed several times throughout the summer. If you would like to experiment with a mat, please let a board member know. This has to be done starting early in the season since the female gives birth to several hundred small fully developed snails so for every female you remove from the lake you are actually keeping several hundred snails from calling Melody Lake their new home. Keep in mind that there are other species of native, freshwater snails in Melody Lake. Try to learn to see what the different snails look like so you are not removing the ones that are beneficial. (see illustration on page 16). If we ever expect to try to control this problem, we will be holding events such as this several times throughout the year. We will also continue to attempt to get DEC more interested in this growing problem.

Melody Lake Willet, NY

Chinese Mysterysnail
Counts & Water Depth (ft)



Chinese Mysterysnails were counted on 15 July 2021 within 0.25m quadrats while snorkeling. Quadrats were placed 50m apart in a perimeter around the lake and 100m apart along three East-West transects crossing the lake.

Past Events and Upcoming Events

By Kelly Cerroni

During the summer of 2021, we were able to organize a few MLA events. Our first 5K Walk/Run on July 5 had a great turnout. There were approximately 25 people attend; from the very young to a few older folks and even a couple “furry” participants. It was a beautiful, sunny day. We also had members who were supporting our runners/walkers by cheering them on from the roadside and giving them a much appreciated drink of water. Our winners were our young attendees. First place went to Caleb Llewellyn, 2nd place went to Quinn Sirgany, and 3rd place went to Nolan Sirgany. We did have one “older” member take the 4th place spot (Pat Cerroni). Congratulations to all who completed the event and especially to those amazing athletes who landed in the top 3. Well done !

On July 17, we held our MLA Snail Rodeo. We also had a fantastic turnout for this event with over 30 people in attendance. Everyone met at the power lines for a short presentation from representatives of Cortland County and to understand the best way to help limit the snail population in the lake and how to remove/properly dispose of the snails. Once our presentation was over, we all returned to our own shorelines to begin the process of plucking snails from the lake. Because each female can produce 200 offspring, this is something members will need to do regularly to help control the amount we have in Melody Lake.

On August 14, we held an Art Walk along with a Garage Sale. We had many fantastic vendors as well as some really cool “finds” at the garage sales. We were also fortunate this year to have a food truck, Naan Ya’ Business, as part of our event. They specialize in modern Indian street food, which is a fusion of American and Indian cuisine. Although the overall turnout for the Art Walk was good, we believe that the opening up of parks, activities, etc. did affect our level of participation compared to 2020 when everything was closed down. On August 29, we held a fun

Golf outing at Knickerbocker Country club. We had two teams participate (8 people). The weather was good, the company was great and we all had a fun time; and the course was in very nice shape. We hope to expand this event next year and get more people involved (and your golf level does not matter; this is just a fun outing with no pressure). We also held various “book club” meetings throughout the summer. These meetings were a lot of fun. Thank you to those members who were kind enough to host the meetings. There was a lot of book talk, miscellaneous chit chat, good food/drink and many, many laughs.

For 2022, we would like to continue providing a few events throughout the summer and we are always excited to have members bring forth new ideas. If you would like to host an event, please let us know; we will help in any way we can. If an event requires more than just a few of us to organize, we will be looking for volunteers to help. We do not want to hold too many events over the summer so that we interrupt your fun at the lake but it’s really nice to get our members together for just a few events that take only a couple hours of your time.

Please also note that at the June 2022 meeting, we will be voting on holding our annual MLA association picnic. We have decided against this in the previous 2 years due to issues relating to Covid-19. So please begin to think about whether this is something you would like to see in 2022. In the past, we have held this event on the 4th Saturday in July (so this year it would be on July 23, 2022).

MLA events like the Art Walk are fantastic for so many reasons but specifically for allowing introductions of members that may not have happened otherwise. We think that these events can help bring our community together so that we can all work towards a few common goals; the safety, security, and health of our lake as well as the happiness of our members while spending time at the lake.

MLA member contact information – keeping it private and safe!

By Kelly Cerroni

Just a reminder, the MLA board strives to keep all of your personal information private and safe. Although we need to maintain a current membership listing with member contact information, we do not share any personal info (email, phone #, address, etc). This data remains confidential. Unless a member gives us permission to share their information, we are unable to provide it to those that make a request. In certain situations, we are granted permission from a member to share some of their information. For example, when a member (or someone in a member's family) passes on, the association may notify members via email. If we obtain authorization, we can include an address so that condolences may be sent. The authorization to share the information only relates to that particular situation; it is not a "blanket" authorization. Email is the easiest, quickest and cheapest way to keep you informed. With the push of the button, we can inform every property owner of a problem. We will not waste our time and association resources by sending out snail mail information or be expected to make phone calls to 83 members. In the past we have had to contact property owners because there was some damage to their property from a recent storm, or maybe even a confirmed harmful algal bloom, or a road closure to let you know there might be a problem reaching your cottage. Thank you for your understanding.

Keeping your information updated:

In order for you to receive emails, snail mail, phone calls, etc, we are respectfully requesting that you inform us of any changes to your contact information, as they happen. Without updated information, you may miss out on important information, an event, a meeting, or a gathering. The MLA board would like to keep its members current on the happenings at our beautiful lake. You may send updates to Kelly Cerroni at kellycccc7@gmail.com.

We need your input

Do you realize that there are only an average of 15 members at most association meetings. Since most ideas and decisions require only a simple majority, this means the future of our lake could be decided by only 8 members. While we do realize that some meetings get a little "heated", we try to maintain control and also try to keep the meetings to 1 hour. Since there are only 3 meetings a year, your sacrifice of just 3 hours a year is a great investment of your time to ensure that Melody Lake remains the place you expected when you invested thousands of \$\$\$ to become a property owner here at the lake.

NEWS FROM THE DAM

Thanks to member Bill Matola for noticing some serious deterioration to the footbridge over the dam. Considering this was built in the mid 1980's it still looks pretty good. Early this spring we will be getting a crew together to replace the entire walkway. Since this was built when we did some required rebuilding of the dam, DEC reminded us that a Dam Safety permit might be necessary. Early this winter we contacted Regional and Statewide Dam Safety personnel with the inquiry and after some research by them we were told that as long as we stick to the original design that was previously approved, this would be considered "routine maintenance" and no permit would be necessary. If you would like to help when the project starts, please let a board member know and we will put you on the list. When we have a date to proceed, we will put out another notice. Thanks also to member Scott Harris for the routine maintenance at the damsite. Our dam was inspected by DEC with just a few minor concerns which Scott took care of quickly. We also had a crew work together to pressure wash the spillway and then coat it with a good concrete sealer. Thanks to all that worked on these projects and to those planning to help on future projects. Thanks to your efforts our dam continues to be in great shape.

Thanks Jim Kuligowski & Theresa Tyner

For years now Jim & Theresa have been trying to find a contractor to replace their retaining wall along their shoreline. The existing wall was constructed more than 50 years ago with railroad ties and now was rotting away and falling into the lake. Due to its location within the town highway right of way, just eliminating it was not an option.



Since this type of job required a water quality permit from DEC and an Article 15 Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, trying to find a contractor has been difficult. Even though you see these types of walls at several locations around the lake, this is the first one that was built legally here at Melody Lake. A few have tried to sneak one in and gotten caught and fined, many others have succeeded in installing one even though they have been proven harmful to the lake. After several years of searching, Jim and Theresa contacted Evan Dyer, Dyer's Dirt Works of Newark Valley who was up for the challenge.



The wall was precast by Holbrook Concrete and delivered to the job site. With the use of a turbidity curtain, sediment was kept from entering the lake.



The new wall was completed in a couple of weeks and the new one should last another 50 years or more.

Building Season Is Almost Here - Got Permits?

The snow is finally melting and the building and landscaping plans you've been itching to get started can finally come to fruition! However, before you get started, it's important to ensure you've obtained all necessary local, state and federal permits. Most construction and excavation activities, especially when conducted near lakes, ponds, rivers, streams or wetlands require a permit.

Non-permitted activity can harm the environment. It can cause flooding of neighboring property, degradation of lake or downstream water quality and it can harm fish and wildlife habitat. It may also result in some rather large fines. Property owners can avoid expensive restoration fees and project setbacks by educating themselves about permit requirements. The sooner you apply for a permit the easier it will be for your project to stay on track

Phone #'s of government agencies that may require a permit can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

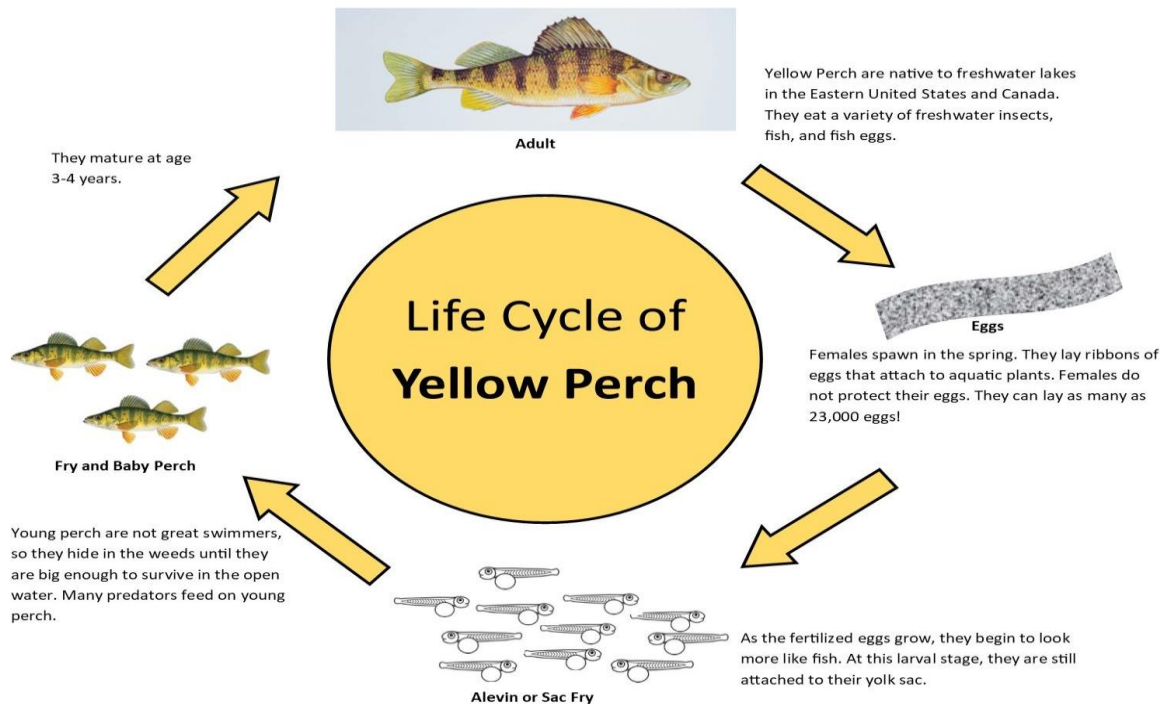
FISHING AT MELODY LAKE.....IT AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

Those of you that have been around here for awhile might remember when catching a stringer full of large perch wasn't unusual. In the past few years, we have heard from many members that the fishing just isn't what it used to be. We even had one member who suggested that too many people were catching and keeping too many fish and suggested that we make Melody Lake a "catch and release" lake only. We have checked with DEC and have been told that special regulations on a private lake cannot be enforced by a conservation officer without proper legislation. The same member also suggested that we do away with the guest pass policy and not allow us to give permission to fish here to our guests.

While it is true that the fishing isn't what it used to be, we have had several conversations with DEC Fisheries and local hatchery owners and here are some thoughts.

The last time we stocked grass carp, there were many introduced into the lake resulting in the loss of all our weed beds. While some fish such as bass protect their nests, perch lay strings of eggs in the shallow water where they hatch and are usually allowed to hide in the weeds. Since they no longer have this protection, they become an easy meal for the bass that are still plentiful in Melody Lake. The vegetation is starting to return and should be encouraged to spread. Learn what beneficial aquatic vegetation looks like and allow it to remain along your shoreline. Any invasive vegetation should be removed and destroyed. If you can't decide what is growing along your shore let us know and maybe we can help identify it.

Perch are a cold water fish and the rising temperature of the lake may have something to do with it.





Did you ever wonder.....in case of emergency, what is my address?

By Bob Rosati

Owning property at Melody Lake can sometimes get confusing. If you ever needed help, or just wanted to give someone your address, what do you tell them? Let's give my information as an example. My deed, and the Melody Lake subdivision map say that my address is lot 53&54 Melody Lake, Willet NY. The tax map says I live at lot 05&06 of map 2-70. According to the post office, my address is PO Box 62 and the 911 system says I live at 1366 Melody Lane. Just what the heck is going on and where the heck am I? When Melody Lake was subdivided, the lots were numbered according to the way the neighborhood was originally divided up. You can only imagine how confusing this was in the case of an emergency. Lot #1 started at Ray Slates property and continued to lot #35 which is now Rich Kipps property. The second set of lots were then lot #36 which is now Gregg Cliff's property and went back towards Melody Lake Rd. to lot #47, now Erik Larsen's property. Now let's jump across the road to #48, now the Trythall property and go back to #66, now the Bolster property. Not quite sure where #67 is. Let's now move out to Melody Lake Rd. to #68, now the Coleman property and continue down Melody Lake Rd. to #90, the Tyner property. #91 takes us back to the other side of the lake to the Stafford property and continues to #112, the Hines property. #113 goes back to the "meeting right of way (next to lot #1) and continues to #120, the Krna property (right next to lot#36). I believe that #121 is the Sirgany property which continues to #127....the Sweeny property. #128 is at the other end of Melody Lake Rd at the Strollo property and continues NE to #131, the Deluca property. Turn around to #132 (Howell property) and go along the shoreline back to #136, which is now the Taylor property.

SOUND CONFUSING??? You bet. Just think how confusing it might be if you were responding to an emergency after dark when every second counts.

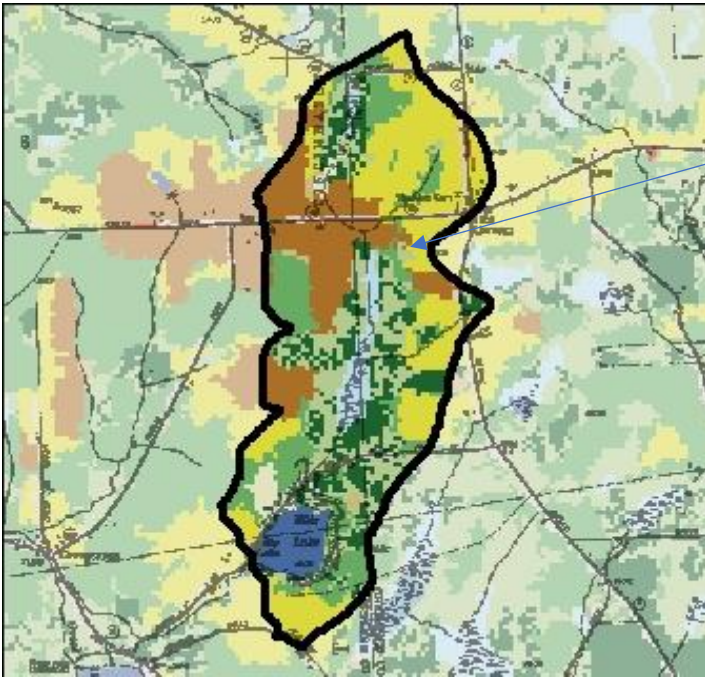
Several years ago, the association board negotiated with Cortland County Planning Department to move us into the 911 system. Cortland County supplied highly reflective signs to all association members to make it easier for emergency response. Still today we see several cottages displaying the old confusing numbers instead of the current easy to find 911 numbers. We still have a small number of the new signs. If your property does not have these 911 numbers, please contact me and I will try to make them available.



BE THE HIT OF THE COOKOUT WITH HOMEMADE HOTDOGS

So, you were invited to a cookout and you can hardly wait to impress the others by bringing your very own homemade, family treat. We all know that no cookout is complete without serving hotdogs. Here is the recipe that will assure you that you will be invited back for the next picnic.

Throughout the winter, whenever you trim raw meat, keep the trimmings. Most any cut of beef, pork or chicken will do. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization most any "lower grade trimmings" are allowed, including fatty tissue, head meat, animal feet, skin, blood, liver, heart and any other edible, slaughter byproducts. All of this should be ground up into a pea sized product similar to hamburger. This combination can include up to 3.5% of non-meat binders and extenders such as dry milk powders and starches such as flour, oatmeal or bread crumbs. Another 2% can be made from soy protein. Also, you can add some sodium phosphate to give it a salty flavor and helps to keep the mixture from drying out. You can then add some spices such as onion powder, garlic powder, mustard powder and a small amount of corn syrup to give it a little sweetness. Then mix the meat and other ingredients into a large bowl and spray a little water into the mix. Blend well while adding enough additional water to make the mixture as juicy as possible (Note – the FDA states that the mixture cannot be more than 10% water). Mix well until it is a thick, smooth puree that is almost entirely devoid of air. Place cellulose tubing rolls into a stuffing machine and pump mixture into the rolls. Twist ends closed. Allow to hang on a drying rack for a few days and then bake in the oven. Drench in cold salt water and chill before packaging into packages of ten and serve with rolls that come in a package of eight.



HELP PROTECT OUR WATERSHED

By Bob Rosati

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into one location such as a stream, lake or wetland. These water bodies offer opportunities for recreation (canoeing, swimming and fishing) and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals. Unfortunately, various forms of pollution, including runoff and erosion, can interfere with the health of the watershed. Therefore, it is important to protect the quality of our watersheds. The map above shows you the boundaries of our watershed. If you ever see anything that concerns you going on in our watershed, please bring it to the attention of the board and we will look into it.

Why Do We Need Healthy Watersheds?

Watersheds sustain life, in more ways than one. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than \$450 billion in foods, fiber, manufactured goods and tourism depend on clean, healthy watersheds. That is why proper watershed protection is necessary to you and your community. Watershed protection is a means of protecting a lake, river, or stream by managing the entire watershed that drains into it. Clean, healthy watersheds depend on an informed public to make the right decisions when it comes to the environment and actions made by the community.

Why We Need to Protect Our Watershed

Earth is covered in 70% water and unfortunately 40-50% of our nation's waters are impaired or threatened. "Impaired" means that the water body does not support one or more of

its intended uses. This could mean that the water is not suitable to drink, swim in or to consume the fish that was

caught there. The leading causes of pollution in our waterways are sediments, bacteria (such as E. coli) and excess nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus). Although nutrients sound like things that belong in a healthy environment, they can cause big problems in a poorly managed watershed. For instance, sediment can suffocate fish by clogging their gills and the presence of bacteria alone can indicate that other viruses and germs can be found in the water as well. Erosion, runoff of animal waste and overflowing of combined sewers are just a few ways these pollutants reach our waters.

SO, WHAT DOES OUR WATERSHED LOOK LIKE?

Melody Lake watershed is relatively small, only about 1236 square acres with 50% in Cortland County (Willet & Cincinnatus) and 50% in Chenango County (German). There are 5 public roads (.6 miles. County Rt 6, 1.3 miles of County Rt. 5, 1.4 miles of County Rt, 2, 1 mile of Melody Lake Rd and .2 miles of Forshee Rd). Land use is 7.65% lake and wetlands, 42.9% Agriculture, 46.5% Forest and Grasses, 2,9% Residential. Currently there is a 40 acre Solar Farm being constructed in the northeastern part of the watershed. This Solar Farm is being monitored closely by the Association Board. The construction of something this size could be a major source of the sediment load into the lake. A major concern is the lack of a Solar Regulation Policy in the Town of German or any Site Plan Review. I have had several conversations with Chenango County Planning Dept., both Cortland County and Chenango County Soil & Water, the design engineer and the onsite supervisor. I have also met with DEC Region 7 Permits and have been assured that DEC in Albany is keeping a watchful eye on the project. This might sound good on paper but in my 35 years working for DEC it is my experience that the further the project is from Albany, the less time they spend monitoring the project. I assure you that the current board will be keeping an eye on the streams coming into the lake from this area of the watershed. Keep in mind that stuff runs downhill. The highest point of our watershed is 1630' above sea level and our lake is at the lowest point of 1402' so everything that happens within this area could end up in our lake. Even with all of this, the biggest influence regarding the health of our lake is "US"

Remember:

"AS PROPERTY OWNERS ON MELODY LAKE, WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO ALTER OUR WAY OF LIFE TO PROTECT MELODY LAKE, RATHER THAN TO ALTER MELODY LAKE TO PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE"

NYSFOLA CONFERENCE RECAP

APRIL 29-30, 2021

The annual New York State Federations of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) conference took place on Zoom this year. The organization, founded in 1983, is a not-for-profit coalition of lake associations, individuals, and corporate members dedicated to the protection and restoration of New York lakes.

Sara Warner & Mary Jo Watts represented MLA, attending this event for the first time. We provide here a brief summary of the proceedings. An archive of the two-day conference, with selected presentations, can be viewed here:

<https://nysfola.org/nysfola-annual-conference-to-go-virtual-for-2021/>

Day One (6 Sessions)

1. Professor Peter Tobiessen, author of *The*



Secret Life of a Lake: The Ecology of Northern Lakes and their Stewardship, gave a broad overview of lake ecosystems and the dangers of phosphorous.

2. Dr. Willard Harman and grad student Heather Murphy spoke about watersheds and best management practices.

3. NYHABs: New York's Online Harmful Algal Bloom Notification System. Stephanie June, Research Scientist with NYS-DEC, said each year 350-400 bodies of water in NYS report HABs (cyanobacteria, toxic form of blue-green algae. Numbers are increasing (climate change, run-off, and other factors). Avoid them are report outbreaks!

DAY ONE continued

4. HAB Case Study: Hopatcong Lake, NJ. Dr. Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro, shared success of using BioChar to reduce HAB outbreaks.

5. ProcellaCOR® Case Study using new herbicide to reduce watermilfoil, an invasive plant.

6. Prof. Dan Stitch on importance of native fish to lake ecosystems.

7. Grass Carp: Aquatic Ecologist Alejandro Reyes said we need to revise best practices for using this fish as a weed control tactic and to use carp as part of a comprehensive vegetation control plan,

Grass Carp continued

not as a primary action.

Grass carp live 30 years (not 10 as thought), and older fish eat more than younger ones. Carp will eat milfoil, but this is not their first choice. If overstocked, devegetation can happen in as little as 2 years.

In the closing Q&A session, people discussed the new NY program for Septic Grants (Cortland

County chose Skaneateles as its recipient).

Day Two (7 Sessions)

1. **Short Term Rental Case Study (Lake Placid)**. John R. Langey, a lawyer at Cooney & Fearon said rentals up 40% due to COVID and offered suggestions for lake association guidelines and regulations.

2. Fundraising laws governing non-profits.

3. Invasive species spread and prevention talk by Josh Thiel (DEC). Most plagued by zebra mussels and milfoil. Snails not an issue for others. Encourages associations to have boat inspection protocols.

4. **Award Ceremony: Melody Lake Wins!**

*NYSFOLA is an
Affiliate of the North
American Lake
Management Society
www.nalms.org.*

Bob Rosati, Lake Steward of the Year!

MLA President Bob Rosati was awarded the Lake Steward of the Year Prize, and he became the first person in NYSFOLA history to earn this distinction twice, in recognition of his decades of conservation efforts. Bob was also celebrated in the Lake Association Newsletter category, earning second prize for best publication. Congrats, Bob!

5. Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) reports that there are now 179 participating sites, the most in the program's history. MLA is a long-time member.

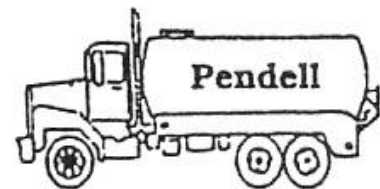
6. Poster Session: graduate students gave reports on preservation efforts using floating islands and macroinvertebrates.

7. Breakout Sessions: we shuffled between the conversations on **dam safety** and the presentation on **conflict resolution**, where 95% of the participants were women who spoke about their frustrations with membership meetings (the fights, threats, and communication problems). The facilitator's presentation on de-escalating tension is online.



When removing snails from the lake, try to only remove what you are sure is a Chinese mystery snail (the upper left is what they look like. Any other may be a native snail and could be beneficial to our lake.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS THAT HAVE MADE THIS NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE AND PLEASE TELL THEM THANKS!!



**Bob Pendell
Septic Tank Service**

We Clean Septic Tanks • Emergency Service

Lisle, N.Y.

**607-849-6102
607-849-3040**

ROUTE 96
POWER & PADDLE
YOUR GREAT OUTDOOR STORE

THE KAYAK SHOWROOM
MON-SAT: 8-5, THURS: 8-8, SUN: CLOSED

KAYAKS, STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDS, PEDALBOARDS, CANOES



Hobie



WILDERNESS SYSTEMS



**TRY BEFORE
YOU BUY!**



DOCKS, SWIM RAFTS, PONTOON BOATS, TRAILERS, CAR RACKS



Now is the time!!

With the present market conditions and low interest rates, if you are thinking of selling your Lake property, give me a call. I can do a market analysis and suggest a marketing plan for you. There is no obligation to sell or list. I have spent 17 years on Melody Lake and I am a big advocate for all that the community has to offer.

.....the best kept secret in Cortland County!



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices



Joanne Sweeney, GRI
R.E. Associate Broker

Heritage Realty

7 James St.

Homer, NY 13077

Cell: 607.423.5623

Office: 607.428.0708

joanne@hometoheritage.com

hometoheritage.com



☞ A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



Eastman Studio & Gallery

Fine Art Prints and Original Art Gift Line

Andrea Eastman

69 Mitchell Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13903

607-723-0237
Andrea@Eastmanstudio.com
Eastmanstudio.com



**LED SIGNS &
SCOREBOARDS**

“Your electronic sign experts”

Bob Eastman
69 Mitchell Ave.
Binghamton, NY 13903

bob@ceserve.com
Phone: (607) 722-2771
Fax: (607) 773-8227

“Whatever you sell, you’ll sell more with a LED sign”

**You'll find a great selection of
Wine & Spirits along with a
Knowledgeable and friendly staff!**



**Join our email club for member discounts!
Weekly tastings and events follow us on...**

facebook

2601 Main Street Whitney Point NY 13862

607-634-4398

Mon. - Thurs. 10am-8pm, Fri. 10am -8pm, Sat. 9am-9pm, Sun. Noon-5pm



CINCINNATUS HOME CENTER
2752 State Rt 26, Cincinnatus NY 13040
(607)863-4175 cincyhc.com

Fresh foods, from produce to meats, baked goods to dairy, are an important part of your family's meal planning family meals. And Cincinnatus Market offers the freshest selection of quality foods for your table at affordable prices. With a small town feel and a big city selection, our friendly, personal service is second to none. Our meat department is legendary, with our own butchers on hand to cut and wrap your favorite selections. Our farm-fresh produce is picked at its peak. And fresh dairy products are delivered 3-4 times a week. Compare our friendly service, quality and prices and you will see why customers come from miles around to shop at Cincinnatus Market, and why you will, too.

Hardware is one of our strong suits. We stock all sorts of parts and supplies for any plumbing, electrical, or carpentry project. We have fasteners of all types and sizes, brackets, hangers, hinges, clamps, valves and fittings, conduit, pipe, filters, clamps, plumbing and electrical fixtures, locksets, masking tape, duct tape & electrical tape, flashlights & batteries, door & window hardware, threaded rod, caulking, glues, car care products, and MUCH MORE!!

Visit Peri's Posies for the finest flower arrangements and gifts in Cincinnatus and Cortland County. Our expert florists can help you choose from a wide variety of gift baskets and plants, or create the perfect floral gift for any occasion. We deliver beautiful floral arrangements and gifts for that special someone, whether they're around the corner or around the world.



- Interior
- Exterior
- Free Estimates

PICKETT PAINTING

Specializing in Aluminum Restoration

ROB, PICKETT
786-9544

**ARE YOU EXPECTING COMPANY WITH NO PLACE
FOR THEM TO STAY?**

COTTAGE FOR RENT

1362 Melody Lane

Two bedroom w/ additional sofa bed.

Full bath. New Septic System.

Recently remodeled with all new appliances

Available by the day, weekend or full week

A short walk for full lake access.

No Pets and No Smoking

For more information contact Bob & Carol Rosati

(607)863-4425 or rcrosati@frontiernet.net

