

Owasco Watershed Lake Association



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## OUR MISSION

**We are the Voice of Owasco Lake and its Watershed and will actively participate in ongoing strategies, processes and activities that are designed to improve water quality for both drinking and full recreational use of Owasco Lake and its watershed.**

## OWLA Board of Directors



**OWLA Strategic Planning Summer 2022  
Board of Directors Organizational Meeting  
Prioritizing SMART Goals**

**(Continue page 4 SMART Goals)**

Jim Beckwith	Kim Mills
Crystina Brooks	Ken Post
Gilda Brower	Ann Robson
Suzanne Gatto	Peter Rogers
Sam Giacona	Carol Sutkus
Dana Hall	Meg Vanek
Nancy Hart	Linda Vitale
Ken Kudla	Carl Weber
Julie Lockhart	Gary Finch (deceased)

**Contractors: David Carr, Program Support  
Tracy Stewart, Marketing Support**

*“OWLA is a hands-on, boots dirty, take action, not-for-profit organization of watershed wide volunteers”*

### OWLA CONTACT INFO

Owasco Watershed Lake Association  
PO Box 1  
Auburn, NY 13021

Website: [www.owla.org](http://www.owla.org)  
General email: [info@owla.org](mailto:info@owla.org)  
Answering Machine: 315.704.5510

Monthly Board of Director Meetings  
3rd Wednesday of the month;  
6:30pm  
Virtual format

Bi-monthly Public Forums  
1st Wednesday of even months; 7pm

### CURRENT STRATEGIES

OWLA sponsors activities and events that increase knowledge and raise awareness of the urgency to act now to improve lake conditions.

We promote community involvement, education and awareness campaigns to engage residents and visitors, with specific outreach to children and youth and their families.

Strengthening partnerships and developing rapport with all the groups and organizations working to protect and restore Owasco Lake is what we do.

Our bi-monthly *Voice of the Lake* newsletter and Public Forums are avenues to communicate and advocate our mission of protecting and improving water quality .

With your annual membership dues, grants and donations OWLA will continue to fund programs and projects that result in measurable water quality improvements in the lake and watershed.

The OWLA Board of Directors is a working board supporting four standing committees.

- Governance Committee
- Membership Committee
- Marketing, Outreach, Education Committee
- Conservation and Remediation Committee

Board members take an active part in organizing and managing committee activities.

OWLA members are welcome to get involved and volunteer opportunities are plentiful. Have you ever considered being on the HABs Surveillance team, visiting classrooms, maintaining a Rain Garden, sitting at a display table, grabbing tributary water samples, hunt for the Woolly Adelgid or plan for the annual Bob Brower Scientific Symposium?

### RECAP of 2022-2023 Public Forum Topics

- August 2022 - Dr. Adam Effler  
Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
- October 2022—Dr. Rebecca Schneider  
Cornell—Roadside Ditch Remediation
- December 2022—Michel Wunderlich  
Owasco Lake 9 Element Plan
- February 2023 - Matt Gallo FLI - PRISM  
Climate Change: Invasive Species
- March 2023- Bob Brower Scientific Symposium  
Affects of Climate Change on Owasco Lake
- April 2023—Partners for Healthy Watersheds  
Agricultural Best Management Practices
- June 2023—OWLA General Membership  
Elections and Annual Report



## SMART GOALS Achieved

### Governance Committee Highlights

- Convened OWLA Board Strategic Planning and SMART Goal initiatives.
  - Established a Grant Writing subgroup, created a compendium of grant opportunities.
  - Submitted five grant proposals, with several more in process.
  - Established a Finance subgroup for OWLA financial management.
  - Maintaining financial management, accounting, filing 501c3 tax reports.
  - Nomination Committee presented complete Slate of Candidates for Board election.
  - Developing procedure to attract, train, and retain volunteers plus track volunteer hours for grant applications
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### Membership Committee Highlights

- Maintained Membership database.
  - Maintained Donor lists.
  - Established Business Membership Category.
  - Initiating Lakefront Membership Campaign.
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### Marketing, Outreach and Education Committee Highlights

- Expanded Outreach and Education through social media, newspaper articles, public forums, talks, newsletters, public events and the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium.
  - Applied Political Education contacts with local and regional governmental representatives.
  - Participated in WCNY and Evidn documentaries.
  - Collaborated with the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce to promote OWLA's Annual Members Event.
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### Conservation and Remediation Committee Highlights

- Recruited and trained volunteers for seven seasonal tributary sampling sites. Fund ELAP testing of samples.
- Recruited and trained CSLAP volunteers for seasonal in lake water testing activities.
- Recruited and trained volunteers for NYSDEC seasonal shoreline HAB Surveillance monitoring.
- Collaborated and funded Roadside Ditch Remediation Project on Ensenore Rd.
- Managed Hemlock Campaign to survey and fund treatment of critical Hemlock trees.