



Protecting water quality since 2007

Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

2015 Annual Report

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About Us

Program Mission

It is the mission of the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program to make regular and thorough inspections of Owasco Lake, its watercourses, and its watershed to ascertain compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Owasco Lake Watershed and to provide education outreach to the watershed community to foster lake stewardship.

The Inspection Program continues this important mission, providing residents and visitors throughout the watershed with the knowledge and tools necessary to maintain and improve the quality of water resources within the Owasco Lake Watershed.

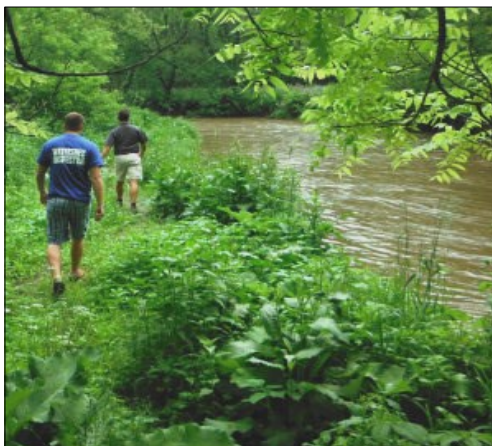
2015 Program Expansion

The inspection program would like to thank the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco for a funding boost in 2015! Additional funds enabled the Inspection Program to expand its efforts and create a new Watershed Inspector position.

Tim Schneider was hired in May 2015. Tim compliments the program with a wealth of knowledge and experience related to watershed management, including working with Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District in the summer of 2014.

Tim is a recent graduate from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science focused on Watershed Science. Tim is excited to apply his knowledge to Owasco Lake and the watershed, assisting residents with issues, concerns, and violations.

The Inspection Program significantly increased its workload in 2015, including algal bloom surveillance, water sampling tributaries and lakeshores, grant writing, and outreach and education.



Inspectors walk to an OWLA water sampling site on the Owasco Inlet.



Inspectors use the Hydrolab to test water quality parameters like pH, temperature, and nutrient levels.

Seasonal Highlights

A Weather Rollercoaster

May and June were extraordinarily wet months in central New York, with nearly 14 inches of rainfall. The steep topography of the Owasco Lake Watershed experienced severe soil erosion from heavy runoff events.

Inspection Program staff responded to numerous drainage and erosion concerns throughout the watershed during this period, providing residents with guidance and recommendations, and documenting areas of concern.

Heavy precipitation and runoff/erosion events during the spring and early summer enriched the lake with nutrients. July, August, and September were then drier than normal, and any rain that fell immediately absorbed into the soil, limiting any “flushing” of the lake during these months.

Unfortunately, a combination of **high nutrient levels, late summer lake stagnation, and warm temperatures** set the stage for widespread algal blooms, which lasted through early October.

The Inspection Program and local agencies (Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) worked with landowners around the watershed to remediate and protect soil and water from future erosion damage (see “Did you know?” below; pgs. 6, 7).



Heavy June rains caused severe erosion and turbidity in streams throughout the watershed (above). Widespread sediment plumes resulted along lake shorelines as sediment-laden flows emptied into the lake from the major tributaries (bottom right).

Did you know?

The average American uses approximately 176 gallons of water every day!



Steep slopes, similar to this field near Rockefeller Road, were subject to erosion and substantial soil losses during rain events in 2015 (see pgs. 6, 7).



A massive sediment plume along the eastern shore of Owasco Lake, looking north to Burtis Point. Plumes were frequently observed around the lake after heavy June rainfall events.

Did you know? Planting “cover crops”, or fall grasses, helps farmers prevent erosion and tons of soil loss per acre on crop fields! The Owasco Lake Watershed agricultural community responded to the devastating 2015 rainfall by working hard to prevent further erosion. Watershed Inspectors observed a commendable quantity of cover crops being planted during the autumn of 2015 as farms worked to prevent future soil losses from the landscape. The specific cover crop acreage is uncertain, but the terrific effort by the watershed agricultural community will significantly reduce the movement of thousands of tons of soil from fields into Owasco Lake and its waterways when the soil is most vulnerable to eroding, typically during the spring.

Invasive Species Monitoring

For the 5th consecutive year, Inspection Program staff participated in the annual Owasco Lake Asian Clam Survey, in cooperation with diving volunteers and staff from the Cayuga County Planning Department.

Inspectors assisted with collection of spatial data, measurements, and tracking of population trends within the northern bays of the lake.

The 2015 survey data indicated promising results – a decrease in adult clam populations found within bay sediments. This may mean the extreme cold during the winter of 2015 contributed to a population decrease.



Asian clams reproduce rapidly and can quickly populate shallow, sandy bays. The clams also experience mass die-off events during which large quantities of nutrients — like nitrogen — are released, contributing to increased plant growth and algae.

Be on the Lookout!

Help prevent the spread of invasive species by removing plant matter, sediments, and bilge water in a proper manner from boats, fishing tackle, and all recreational equipment.

<http://www.lakescientist.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/zebramussel1.jpg>



Zebra Mussels filter microscopic organisms from water, making food less available for native species. Zebra Mussels also clog water intakes by clinging to pipes.

<http://lurig.altervista.org/cpm/albums/bot-032/potamogeton-crispus45.jpg>



Curly Pondweed is an aggressive aquatic plant that competes with native plants for space and whose thick growth also limits recreation activities.

<http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Snail4.jpg>



Chinese Mystery Snails compete with native snails for food and can carry diseases and parasites that affect other aquatic organisms.

http://whatcomboatinspections.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/eurasian_1.jpg



Eurasian Watermilfoil forms dense mats that outcompete native plants for light, which then limits the amount habitat available for native fish and other aquatic species.

Erosion and Sediment Control Initiatives

Sediment "Trap" Pilot Installation

Design

With funds provided by the Emerson Foundation, the Inspection Program and the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff constructed a set of concrete sediment traps during the winter months of 2014 (photos right).

The concrete traps are designed to capture soil particles to reduce nutrient loading in streams and Owasco Lake, and allow for simple cleanout by road crews. These new traps are the "pilot" structures to demonstrate the effectiveness of capturing sediments being transported through ditches with stormwater. Inspection staff will continuously monitor the traps for deposition quantities throughout the year.

Implementation

One of two sediment traps was recently placed on Town Hall Road in Owasco, to intercept and contain sediments before they enter Sucker Brook (right). The second sediment trap is slated to be placed on Martin Road in Owasco, adjacent to Dutch Hollow Brook.

The sediment traps are a simple, durable method to consider for ditch stabilization, especially on steep slopes. The Inspection Program encourages the use of the sediment traps and by regularly monitoring the amount of sediment they retain, will evaluate the positive impact the traps can have on water quality.



Owasco Highway Department personnel help install the first pilot sediment trap on Town Hall Road.



Completed installation of the first pilot sediment trap on Town Hall Road (November 2015).

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop

The heavy rainfall events of 2015 underscored the importance of stabilizing soils and carefully directing stormwater.

The Inspection Program organized a 1-day Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop to provide information on designs and materials for preventing soil erosion and stabilizing steep slopes.

The workshop was held in August at the Cayuga County SWCD campus and attracted municipal highway departments, local agencies, and watershed protection groups.

Beneficial topics were covered throughout the day, including:

- Perimeter Runoff Controls
- Native Seeds and New Hydraulic Mulches for Erosion and Sediment Control
- Advances in Jobsite Controls
- NY State Stormwater Construction Permit Updates

Approximately 25 people attended the 2015 workshop, including highway department staff from the Town of Niles and Cayuga County highway.



This site on East Lake Road in Owasco demonstrates the use of a variety of erosion and sediment control methods on a severely eroding site. The methods shown in the photo include: a burlap-like rolled erosion product (left), and angular stone protection or "riprap" (right).

Watershed Monitoring and Assessments

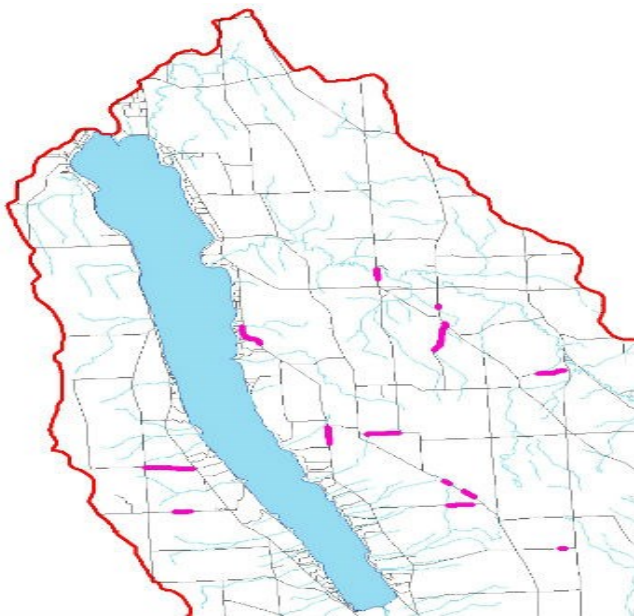
Watershed Road Ditch Assessment

Overall, 18 ditch sites were inventoried in 2015, from which **over 5 linear miles of unstable ditch lengths were identified** (map below). The results of this year's assessment clearly demonstrate the significant need for corrective actions throughout the roadside ditch networks.

The ditch assessment project is ongoing, continuing the efforts begun in 2015. Thus far, we have identified over 10 miles of unstable area throughout the watershed since 2015.

As we accumulate data, we will work closely with the Soil and Water Conservation District and municipal and county highway departments throughout the watershed, to **pursue funding for ditch stabilization practices to reduce erosion** (see page 11, bottom right).

2015 Road Ditch Inventory Locations



Tim Schneider takes a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) sample near the mouth of Sucker Brook as a part of the 2015 algae monitoring effort (see pg. 9 for program details and results).

Watershed Monitoring

Inspection Program staff conducted numerous site inspections, monitored lake and tributary algal blooms, provided technical assistance to residents, and conducted visual/biological/chemical assessments throughout the watershed.

Using Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technologies, the staff was able to track efforts throughout the year and plot "areas of concern" throughout the watershed on Geographic Information System (GIS) maps (see map on pgs. 6, 7).

Due to the unusually wet year, the Inspection Program identified and recorded many areas of concern, including: drainage issues in residential areas, construction projects, nutrient applications (both ag/non-ag), septic system issues, and most prevalent during 2015 — streambank erosion (examples on pgs. 6, 7, 12)!

Cumulatively, **small areas of erosion left untreated contribute huge amounts of sediments and nutrients to the lake** during heavy precipitation events. The soil erosion that occurred throughout the watershed landscapes in 2015 undoubtedly contributed to the late summer algal blooms.

Inspection Program Totals for 2015

Watershed Site Visits / Inspections:	136
Water Samples Taken:	356
Sites Monitored for Potential Violations:	25
• Auto spill	1
• Agricultural discharge	3
• Improper animal carcass disposal	6
• Construction disturbances	10
• Animals with stream access	2
Violations Issued:	11
• Auto spill	1 *
• Agricultural discharge	3 ◇
• Improper animal carcass disposal	6 *
• Animals with stream access	1 *

* Violation corrected

◇ Ongoing corrective action

Did you know?

- **270** miles of streams collectively feed Owasco Lake
- **480** miles of maintained roads traverse the watershed
- **41** percent of the watershed is considered forested

Significant Areas of Concern

2015 Watershed Condition

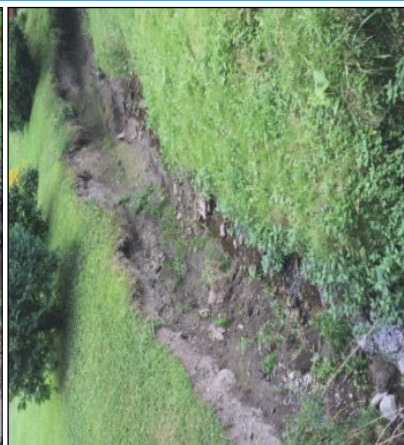
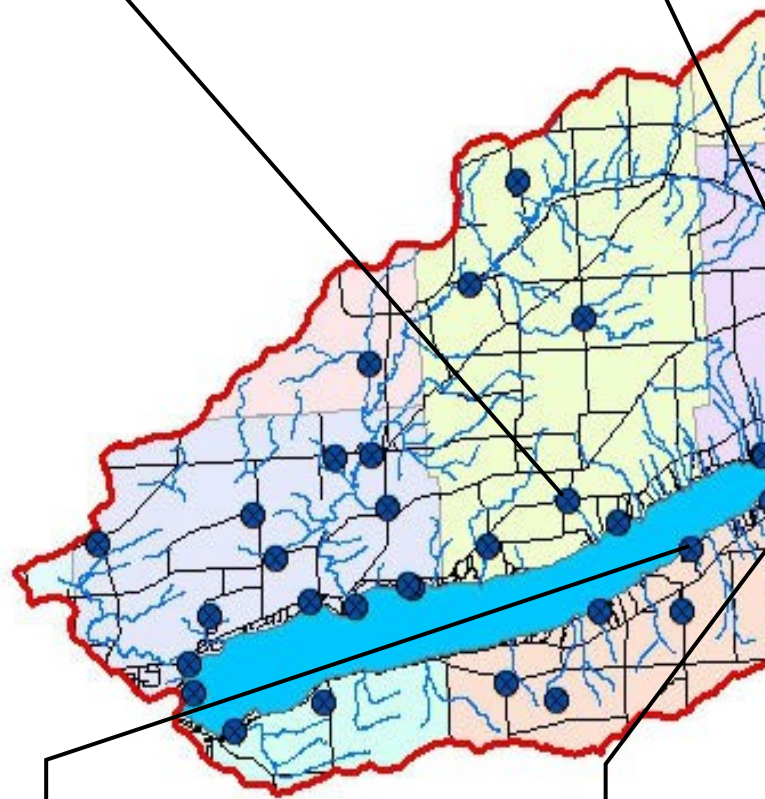
The heavy rains of early summer 2015 created numerous issues and concerns throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed and set the stage for late summer algal blooms. In June, heavy rains and oversaturated soils fed tributaries and the Lake with nutrient rich sediments from the eroding landscape. During the dry months of July, August, and September, the uplands of the watershed recovered, as the agricultural community and other residents implemented many erosion-reduction practices and preventive efforts (see example, left).

Ag fields with large areas of erosion were repaired and stabilized with protective grasses or "cover crops" to hold soil in place during future rainfall (see pg. 2). Residents requested Inspection Program assistance and began repairing drainage issues, septic system failures (according to Health Department approved plans), and tributary erosion to prevent worsening.

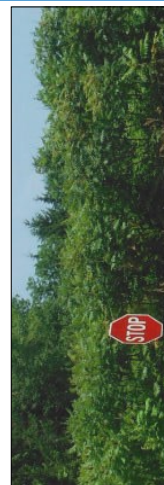
Despite the abundance of Harmful Algal Blooms seen throughout the Lake during the late summer months, the **efforts by residents to protect the watershed and its waters should be commended and surely provides promise for water quality improvements in 2016 and beyond!**



Inspection Program staff assisted with a culvert replacement project at Camp Casowasco. The project involved stabilization of the streambank as well as the culvert walls. The culvert replacement also created a more natural passageway for aquatic organisms, including spring smelt.

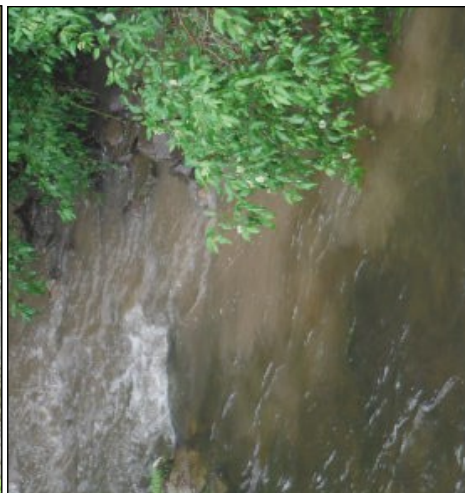


In the last few years, strong, localized rainstorms have become more frequent. As a result, many small streams around the watershed are experiencing severe bank erosion. The site pictured here demonstrates the scouring that is typical of bank erosion. The Inspection Program works with landowners throughout the watershed to plan and implement practices that will increase the resiliency of highly erodible streambanks.

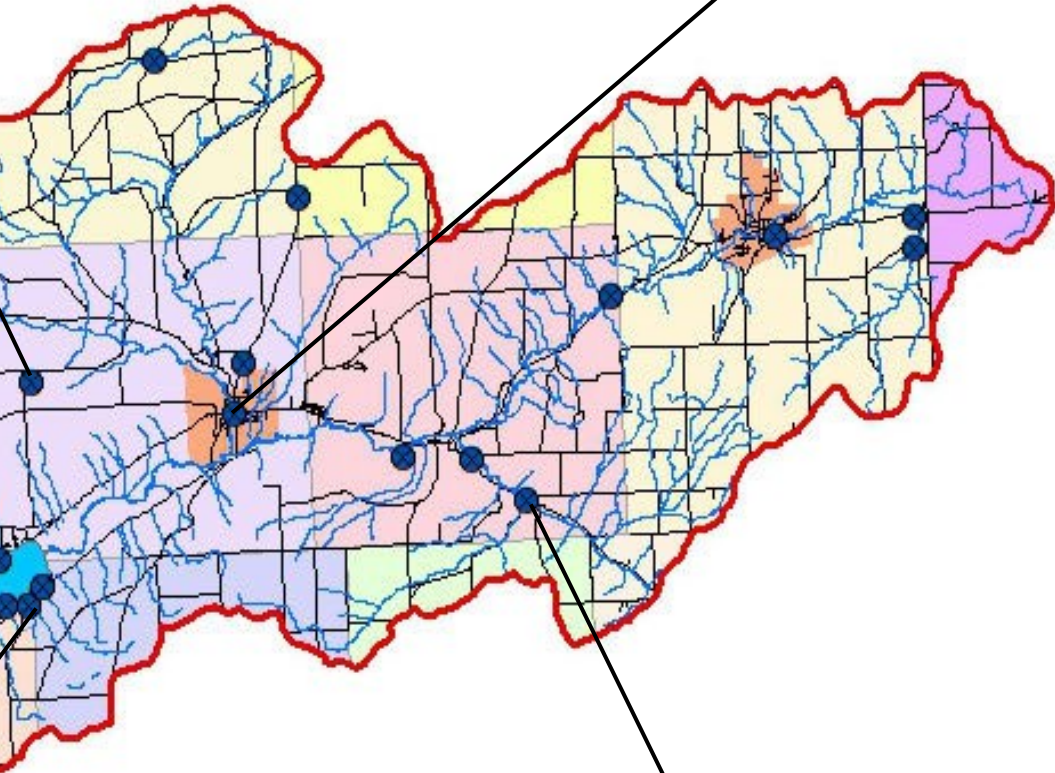




Firelanes and access roads can be susceptible to erosion. Roadway construction on steep slopes can alter natural drainage patterns by intercepting and redirecting large amounts of water. Inspection Program staff works with residents to correct issues that arise from outdated and undersized culverts, ditches, and other drainage structures.



Heavy rains during 2015 caused severe soil erosion throughout the watershed. The photos of Hemlock Creek (above) demonstrate how turbid (sediment-laden) water flowing into ditches can impact water clarity in streams. The Inspection Program monitors streams to determine the origins of turbid water in an effort to reduce the movement of soil and nutrient particles into streams and Owasco Lake.



Roadside herbicide application can potentially result in soil erosion. When treated plants die, soil is exposed and becomes vulnerable to erosion caused by stormwater runoff. Herbicide runoff can impact water quality. In 2015 the Inspection Program verified a significant reduction of this practice on state-maintained roads throughout the watershed.



Medallions were placed on stormwater drains around the Village of Moravia and Town of Owasco. These medallions serve as a reminder to avoid disposing of waste into drains, and to keep them clear of debris at all times. Clean, clear stormwater drains will help protect the water quality in Owasco Lake.

Did you know?

The littoral zone and buffer are critical fish and wildlife habitat!

- 90% of all living things found in our lakes and streams live along the shallow margins and shores known as the littoral zone.
- There is 500% more species diversity near the water's edge, as compared to adjoining uplands.
- Research in northern Wisconsin found that bluegill productivity and growth rates dropped by 260% on highly developed lakes compared to undeveloped lakes.
- Other research using underwater cameras found that fish spend up to 700% more time along undeveloped shores than developed shores.

Natural shoreland vegetation traps polluted runoff and prevents silt from choking fish spawning beds and other productive areas within lakes and streams that are typically rich with aquatic life. Leaf litter on the ground within buffer zones acts as a sponge to soak up rain and slowly release it to plant roots or ground seepage, further preventing soil erosion.

Bacteria and Nutrient Monitoring

Bacteria Sampling

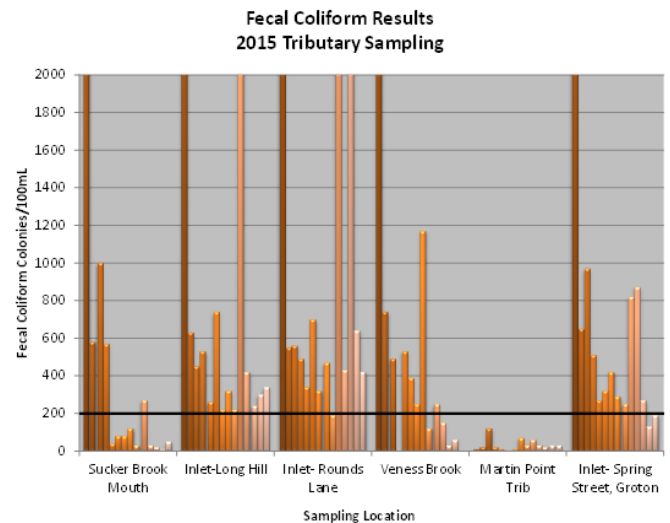
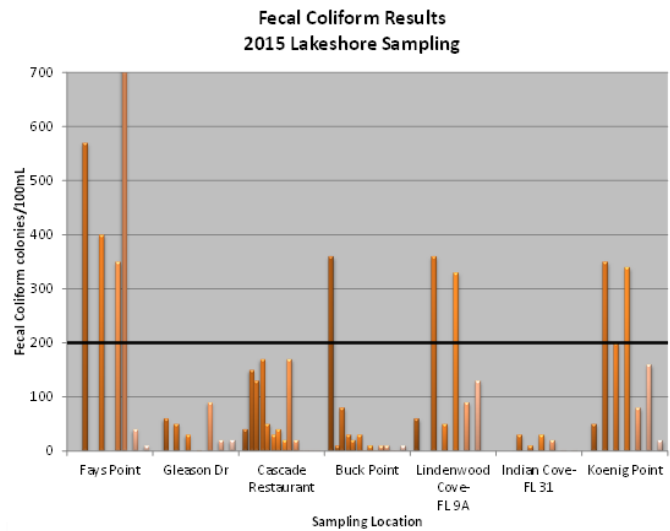
Coliform is a group of bacteria present in every corner of our environment, and most are not dangerous to human health. These bacteria are used as indicators of drinking water quality – if coliform bacteria are present, there is a greater chance of harmful organisms also being present.

Fecal coliform is a subgroup of total coliform, which comes primarily from the feces of warm-blooded animals. *E. coli* is a subgroup of fecal coliform. Fecal coliform and *E. coli* levels are used as water quality indicator criteria for potential risk to human health.

The graphs on this page summarize the 2015 fecal coliform water sampling results from 7 lakeshore and 6 tributary locations (right). Each vertical bar represents weekly bacteria results at the corresponding sampling location.

Results of less than **200** fecal coliform per 100 milliliters (mL) (**bold line**) generally indicate a bacterial level considered 'good' and suitable for bathing. 'Spikes' or high bacteria levels on the graphs were typical after heavy precipitation events during the summer of 2015. Visit www.owascoinspection.org for more information.

Inspection Program staff and Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) members organized and conducted weekly bacteria sampling along the shores and tributaries of Owasco Lake during summer months. Funding for this monitoring program is provided by OWLA and Cayuga County Planning.



WAVE Program participants collect and identify insects found in watershed tributaries. Damselfly larva like the one pictured above typically indicate impaired water quality.

WAVE Program

This year, our staff participated in the Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) program developed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The WAVE program trains citizen scientists to use kick nets to collect macroinvertebrates (insects) in streams as biological indicators of water quality.

Most Owasco Lake tributaries were last sampled in 2007, and a majority of those streams had minor or no known negative impacts to water quality. Since water quality concerns around the watershed have increased, we hope to update our understanding of whether tributary water quality has changed since 2007.

Our Watershed Inspector, Tim Schneider, is a local WAVE coordinator. If you would like to join the program and help us collect vital water quality data, please email Tim at tschneider@cayugaswcd.org.

Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring

Program Information

A Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring Program was created for Owasco Lake in 2015. The program's purpose is *to better understand the extent and conditions under which algal blooms occur – with a focus on runoff events and nutrient loading – and determine whether algae is toxic.*

The 2015 season was funded and sponsored by OWLA, Cayuga County Health Department, the Inspection Program, and NYS DEC.

Twenty-five samples were allocated for algae species determination and nutrient and toxicity concentrations. Samples were drawn from the lake if blooms resembled visual cues outlined by the NYS DEC, including: a pea soup color, streaks of green, appearance of spilled paint, or green dots (right).

About Harmful Algal Blooms

A bloom has potential to be harmful when high concentrations of cyanobacteria species (formerly known as Blue-Green Algae) are present. HABs can be harmful to humans, pets, and wildlife. Symptoms of HAB exposure can include: skin irritation, nausea, vomiting, allergic reactions, and in rare cases, death.

Currently, predicting a bloom is very difficult, but common factors associated with a bloom are warm, calm waters, sunlight, and high nutrient concentrations. Over the last few years, Owasco Lake has experienced an increase in the frequency of algal blooms, possibly as a result of heavy rains and nutrient loading. 2015 was no exception, as algae began to appear in early July.

2015 Bloom and Toxicity Results

According to NYS DEC, HABs occur when the cyanobacteria concentration exceeds **25-30 ug/L** (micrograms per liter) and water is considered toxic (based on elevated risks for swimmers) when toxin levels are above **20 ug/L**.

Twenty-three algae samples were taken during the 2015 sampling season, with 19 samples positive for cyanobacteria concentrations that indicate a bloom*. Fifteen samples had high toxicity** (right).

Scott Kishbaugh, director of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), provides results to OWLA, the Health Department, the Inspection Program, and other organizations involved in Owasco Lake Watershed management.

Continuation of the HAB monitoring project is planned for 2016.



2015 Cyanobacteria and Nutrient Sample Results

Date	Location	Cyanobacteria Concentration	Toxin Concentration
7/9	Peterson Point	31 ug/L*	<2.87 ug/L
7/13	Mouth of Sucker Brook	785 ug/L*	<2.61 ug/L
7/27	Near Bouy off Burtis Point	<13 ug/L	<1.35 ug/L
7/29	Northeast Shore near Emerson Park	<13 ug/L	<1.35 ug/L
8/19	Near Buoy off Burtis Pt.	<13 ug/L	<1.35 ug/L
8/19	Near Buoy off Burtis Pt.	<13 ug/L	<1.35 ug/L
9/2	Yacht Club	954 ug/L*	330 ug/L**
9/2	Martin Point	68 ug/L *	9 ug/L
9/2	Firelane 23E	73 ug/L*	10 ug/L
9/3	Lindewood Cove	252 ug/L*	62 ug/L**
9/3	Yacht Club	4515 ug/L*	558 ug/L**
9/4	Mouth of Sucker Brook	185 ug/L*	36 ug/L **
9/4	Holland Drive	2356 ug/L*	530 ug/L**
9/16	Firelane 3W	679 ug/L*	243 ug/L**
9/17	Mouth of Dutch Hollow	140 ug/L*	104 ug/L**
9/17	Mouth of Sucker Brook	83 ug/L*	39 ug/L**
9/17	Indian Cove	886 ug/L*	792 ug/L**
9/17	Firelane 23E	246 ug/L*	161 ug/L**
9/25	Firelane 3W	139 ug/L*	105 ug/L**
10/4	Firelane 3W	3478 ug/L*	808 ug/L **
10/5	Mouth of Veness Brook	96 ug/L*	202 ug/L **
10/5	Mouth of Sucker Brook	1271 ug/L*	587 ug/L**
10/5	Plunkett Point	2523 ug/L*	861 ug/L **

* Cyanobacteria concentration exceeds 25-30 ug/L

** Toxin Concentrations exceeds 20 ug/L

Owasco Community Tree Replacement Nursery

Community Tree Nursery at Owasco Elementary School Taking Shape!

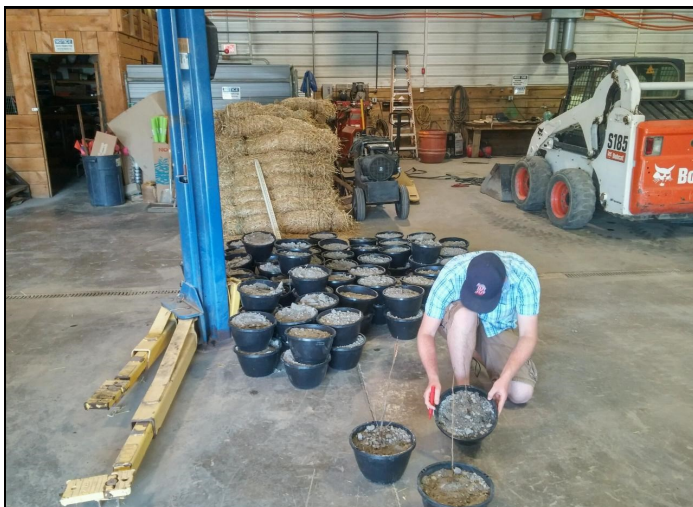
The Town of Owasco, Owasco Elementary School, and the Inspection Program are working together to create a community tree replacement nursery at the elementary school.

The nursery's creation was made possible by a 2015 grant from the NYS Urban Forestry Council Arbor Day Community Grants program. The nursery is currently located behind the elementary school, between the butterfly garden and the bird sanctuary (bottom right).

Approximately 200 tree seedlings of various species were purchased from the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Tree and Shrub sale (bottom left). The seedlings, including Sugar Maple, Scarlet Oak, Red Oak, American Tuliptree, and American Sycamore, are now growing at the nursery, in pots donated by Dickman Farms.

Goals of the Community Tree Replacement Project

1. involve and educate students on how to care for and identify trees and observe how the trees they raise can make a difference in their communities,
2. work with town officials to replace trees throughout the community removed due to disease and/or age, and
3. engage the entire community with planting these trees to protect shorelines, streambanks, and maintain aesthetic and property values.



Planting nursery seedlings at the Annual Tree and Shrub Sale at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District.



ABOUT THE NURSERY

The Owasco Community Native Tree Replacement Nursery was created to maintain a healthy native tree population in the Town of Owasco.

The primary goals of this project include:

1. Involving and educating students on caring for and identifying trees, and observing how the trees they raise can make a difference in their communities;
2. Working with town officials and residents to replace trees throughout the community that are removed due to disease and/or age;
3. Engaging the entire community in planting these trees to protect shorelines, streambanks, and maintain aesthetic and property values.



Arranging newly planted seedlings at the new nursery location at Owasco Elementary School.

Grants Awarded

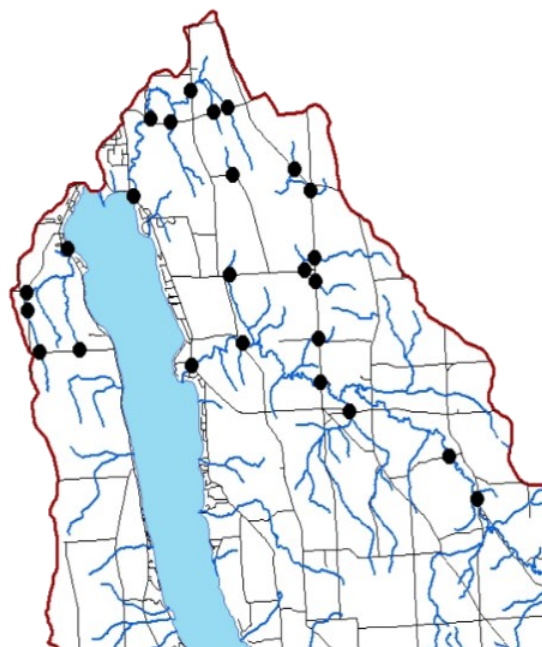
The Inspection Program and Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) were fortunate to receive funding for two innovative projects that will begin in 2016.

Stream-Road Crossing Signage

A new tributary identification initiative, funded by New York Sea Grant, known as *Tributary Adoption and Identification Pilot Program* or "TAIPP" will develop identification and informational signage at stream-road crossings in Owasco, Fleming, and Niles (map, right).

This "pilot" project will provide a **starting point to engage the public in tributary protection and education**. Eventually, this initiative will expand, and similar tributary signage will be placed throughout the entire watershed (see below).

The signage will include the name of the sub watershed/tributary flowing at a specific road crossing, as well as "quick response" (QR) scan codes that will link smartphone users to a database with specific biological, physical, and geographical information about each tributary. Emergency contact information will also be included for the public to report noticeable water quality issues at the location.



The 25 proposed pilot sites for TAIPP. Sites are located on portions of Dutch Hollow Brook, Sucker Brook, and Veness Brook. These streams are major Owasco Lake tributaries and contribute to numerous water quality issues.

Road Ditch Stabilization

The latest round of the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program has funded a project focused on stabilization of road ditches throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed.

The goals of this project are to stabilize nearly 100 miles of road ditches over the next 5 years, purchase supplies and materials for implementation, and **substantially reduce the amount of sediment** flowing through the ditch networks into tributaries and Owasco Lake.



Hydroseeding is an effective and inexpensive practice for stabilizing roadside ditches to minimize erosion and prevent nutrient loading in waterways.



The current design-in-progress for signs that will identify stream-road crossings throughout the watershed. Signs will provide a unique code with which a crossing can be easily identified, contact phone numbers, and a smartphone link to educational information about each tributary.

Contact and Other Information

Seasonal Staff

Two seasonal Watershed Inspectors, Kerry McElroy and Gillian Sloan, joined the Inspection Program during 2015.

Kerry recently received master's degrees in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, and Environmental Public Participation from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF). Gillian is currently a junior in the Environmental Law and Policy program at SUNY ESF.

Both Kerry and Gillian were fantastic additions to the program, assimilating quickly and integrating their knowledge and skills into the program's seasonal objectives.

Together, their efforts resulted in a significant quantity of field work and public outreach and education completed in 2015. Kerry and Gillian contributed to watershed data reconnaissance, monitoring, sampling, and public outreach activities including Lake Day and maintaining the Program's social media accounts.

Inventory of Sucker Brook

Sucker Brook, draining the northeastern areas of the watershed, has been a high concern over the last few years due consistently high bacteria levels, turbid (sediment-laden) water, and algal blooms at the mouth.

In 2015, the Inspection Program conducted 4 miles of on-foot inventory along Sucker Brook to identify areas where high nutrient or bacteria sources may be entering the stream. The first phase of surveillance started at the mouth of Sucker Brook and ended at the Town Hall Road crossing, using a GPS unit to map areas of concern.

As a result, over 566 feet of severely eroding, and 1,024 feet of moderately eroding, streambank were identified as contributing sediments to Sucker Brook.

The Program will continue to work with SWCD and other partners to: identify funding sources, develop proposals for stabilizing vulnerable streambank sections, and reduce the nutrients carried to Owasco Lake through the Sucker Brook corridor.

Andrew Snell

Owasco Lake Watershed Specialist

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Watershed Facts and Figures

Drainage Area:	208 square miles
Counties:	Cayuga, Onondaga, Tompkins
NY Townships:	Owasco, Fleming, Venice, Groton, Scipio, Skaneateles, Moravia, Sempronius, Locke, Genoa, Lansing, Niles, Summerhill, Dryden
Lake Depth:	~177 ft
Lake Length:	11 Miles
Finger Lakes Rank:	6th Largest
Residents drinking Owasco Lake waters:	~45,000
Gallons of water in Owasco Lake:	260 ,000,000,000



The bank shown is one of many experiencing severe erosion on Sucker Brook. High velocity water has scoured soil and left tree roots exposed, a process known as undermining. Bank stabilization measures will minimize erosion by reducing the amount of bare soil exposed to high velocity water.



Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program
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Water Quality Emergencies:

- Water Treatment.....(Auburn) 315.253.8754
(Owasco) 315.253.3284
- DEC Officer.....315.426.7431
- Cayuga Co SWCD.....315.237.1863
- Health Department.....315.253.1405

www.owascoinspection.org

Help Protect Owasco Lake and its Watershed

Much more information on our website: www.owascoinspection.org

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