

2026
Chautauqua
Lake Symposium

March 21, 2026

Harbor Hotel, Celoron NY





The Chautauqua Lake Partnership

- Goal of CLP
 - Maximize beneficial use of Chautauqua Lake: a cleaner & healthier lake
 - **Reduce invasive weeds and nutrients**
- CLP restarted herbicide applications in 2018
 - Previously managed by CLA through 1990's
 - Lake conditions had deteriorated and invasive species had become dominant
- Initiated studies of Phosphorus loading
 - BGSU engagement & study (2019-20)
 - Purchase of Sea-Bird P-sensors
 - Loaned sensors to Jefferson Project 2023
- Opposed application of Wetlands Regs to the Lake

Our Resources:

Since 2018

[Ready Scout Consulting & Solitude Lake Management](#) specialized, professional firms focused on aquatic ecosystem, wetland, and lake management

Since 2020

[NCSU Aquatic Plant Management Program](#) a world-class, internationally recognized research and extension leader



Herbicide Program Overview

Planning

- Long Term Plan
- Macrophyte Survey
- Herbicide Selection
- Funding

Permitting

- DEC Meeting(s)
- Art 24 Wetlands Permit
- Art 15 Pesticides Permit
- Notifications

Application

- DEC Field Verification
- Post signage
- Professional Application
- Water testing
- DEC Reporting

Relative Toxicity - Acute Oral LD50 (*Lethal Dose 50%*)

Herbicides used in Chautauqua Lake

- Aquathol k - 230
- **Navigate - 3129**
- **ProcellaCOR EC - 5000+**
- **Clearcast - 5000+**

Common Household Products

- **Caffeine - 140**
- **Hot Sauce (Capsaicin) - 161**
- **Bleach - 192**
- Aspirin - 200
- Cinnamon - 275
- Vitamin A - 1510
- Vitamin C - 2000
- **Table salt - 3000**

More toxic ↑

↓ Less toxic

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

Date: February 6, 2026

Re: 2026 Herbicide and Algaecide applications in portions of Chautauqua Lake.

The Chautauqua Lake Partnership is applying for permits from the NYSDEC to apply the following aquatic herbicides and algaecides to control invasive lake plants and algae in areas of the lake adjacent or contiguous to Ellery, Bemus Point, Ellicott, Celoron, Lakewood, Busti and North Harmony:

- Clearcast** (active ingredient: imazamox, EPA Reg. #241-437-67690) application is proposed to occur in **April or May, 2026** to control invasive **Curly Leaf pondweed**.
- ProcellaCOR EC** (florpyrauxifen-benzyl, EPA Reg. #67690-80) application is proposed to occur in **June or July 2026** to control invasive **Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil)**. A second application window may be needed late in the season for late-growing Eurasian Watermilfoil within previously approved areas.

Herbicide is APPLIED underwater NOT "Sprayed"

Modern aquatic herbicide treatments use advanced, metered application systems to deliver precise doses below the water's surface. This targeted subsurface method maximizes uptake by invasive plants while using the minimum effective dosage.





2025: A Rough Year



July 2025 Drone Photos

- Wetlands regulation of the lake became effective Jan 1, 2025
 - 2x Permitting, >> 2x Permitting effort & complexity
- 2 NCSU Macrophyte Surveys done in 2025
 - June - for planning 2026 Curlyleaf Pondweed treatments
 - August - for assessment of 2025 Milfoil treatments & planning 2026
 - Both surveys confirmed recovery of native diversity in the south
- 2025 Herbicide treatments
 - DEC reduced requested areas in permitting stage and at application
 - Pondweed - 463 Acres permitted, DEC allowed 286 treated
 - Milfoil
 - Phase I - 172 Acres treated
 - Phase II - 0 of 121 Acres treated - DEC delays, too late to treat
 - SSW - 0 of 8 Acres treated, 2025 location slightly outside permit area
- Explosive growth of native + invasives occurred in 2025
 - Root cause still unknown (weather, nutrients, mother nature,...)
 - Burtis Bay was not safely navigable after 4th of July
 - **Same action → Expect same result**



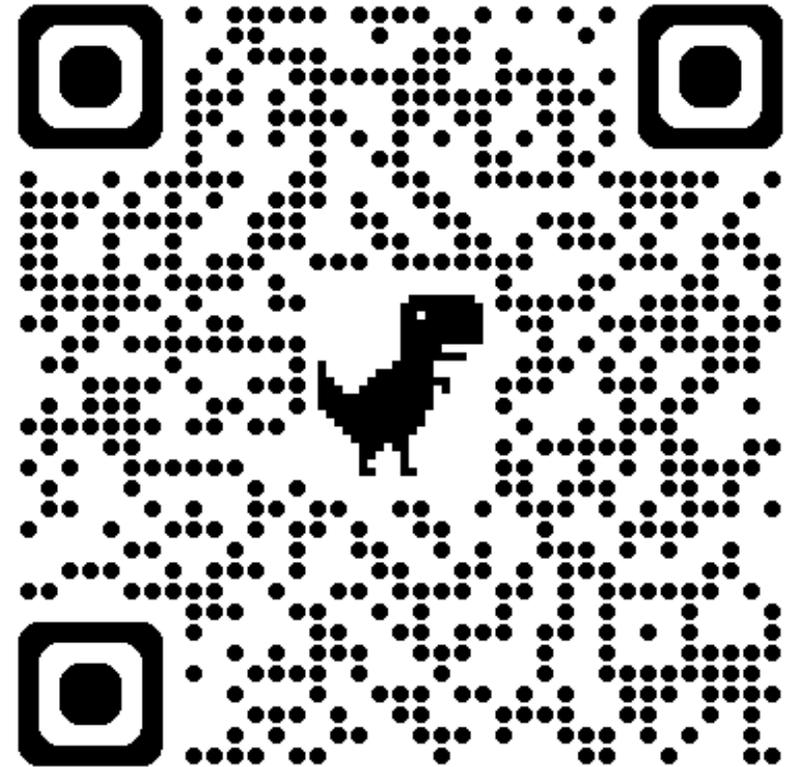
Changes for 2026

- “Adaptive Management” flexibility to actually treat priority permitted areas
 - Increased permit application area to allow for shifting plant growth locations
 - Expanded timing window for annual weather and plant growth variation
- Navigation & Commercial zones
 - Pathway from Greenhurst to Celoron, Lakewood launch to channel, & marinas
 - Total of 115 Acres in the most difficult areas - reduce pressure on mechanical harvesting
- Consolidated permit entity vs. unique applications for each town/village
 - Single application for Article 24 wetlands
 - Single applications for each of the 4 Article 15 herbicide permits
 - DEC required supporting resolutions from participating towns & villages
- Support coordination with CLA and CWC to maximize resources & effectiveness



Thank you

- We are all-volunteer; 100% of your donation goes to services to improve the lake
- Detailed information on CHQLAKE.Org
 - Herbicide info, maps, etc.
- Over 1000 Subscribers receive email updates & newsletters
- Email: CLP@chqlake.org



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