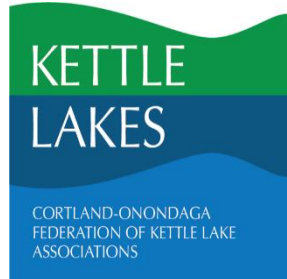


Kettle Lakes Association
(Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc)
End of Year Report for 2024

February 20, 2025



Voting Members: Crooked Lake Homeowners Association, Little York Improvement Society, Song Lake Property Owners Association and Tully Lake Property Owners Association
Watershed Partner: Tully Green Lake

Board of Directors

Tarki Heath: President (Song Lake)
Colleen Zawadzki: Vice President (Tully Lake)
Tom Cappa: Treasurer (Crooked Lake)
Marjie Grillo: Secretary (Song Lake)
Marie Ferro: Little York Lake Representative
Tom Spangenberg: Crooked Lake Representative
Nikki Mason: Tully Lake Representative

[Kettle Lakes Association](http://KettleLakesAssociation.org)
contact@cofokla.org



NYS Charities Bureau (Registration # 44-89-36).

NYS Charities Bureau Legal Statement: A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General's website (www.charitiesnys.com) or, upon request, by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us by emailing cofokla@gmail.com. You also may obtain information on charitable organizations from the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com or (212) 416-8401.

Executive Summary

2024 was the 15th year of our kettle lakes coalition. Each year we compile and produce an End of Year Report, providing an opportunity to share with our members and other supporters the work that our small organization has accomplished in yet another year. When we are moving from one project to the next, progress is not always obvious. We are all volunteers, with little time to reflect, so this opportunity is significant.

We are pleased to report that our organization is keeping to our mission, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and addressing most of the six goals we set forth in of our strategic plan.

The first goal is a source of pride to us as we strive to maintain and expand our outreach programs. This has been attained through many initiatives. Even with our limited capacity, we have been active in a variety of meaningful community events, both partnering with others and creating our own.

Achieving the second goal, through online and in-person surveys was invaluable. We were able to further assess our membership's needs by revealing their major concerns. As might be expected, Harmful Algal Blooms and overall water quality concerns are prime, along with concerns for warming water on the fisheries in our lakes. Other concerns included run-off from stormwater, septic system maintenance, and invasive species. It is a daunting list. In the coming months, we plan to review our programming to be sure our efforts address these concerns, and we will use these responses to help drive our programming as we re-examine and revise our goals for 2025.

The third goal reads: We plan to recruit active and ongoing membership, expanding levels of participation. This goal continues to present a challenge to our group. Building capacity in a small non-profit organization is difficult to achieve and yet may be the most important goal we have. This must be a focus for 2025 if we are to be sustainable; it will take more of us to do this work. As we enlist our kettle lake associations for support for targeted programs and events we hope to expand our base.

The fourth goal of re-branding C-OFOKLA as legally doing business as (DBA) Kettle Lakes Association designation was achieved by our new logo design, prominent watershed road sign and through publicity. These were significant steps in that direction as it also brought our association into the purview of our community. We did some merchandising in December to promote our new brand and are planning a few more items in the coming year.

Our Kettle Lakes are fortunate to have solid partnerships with our Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local universities, and regional NGOs, so meeting the fifth goal of continuing those relationships has been fruitful and seamless. Funding key projects with the assistance of grants is not a large part of our work, but with the help of our partners, we have found sufficient funding for key projects, such as the Kettle Lakes Mural and continued AIS educational outreach.

Reaching the sixth goal of increasing community watershed stewardship is key to our mission. We

have continued our active involvement with youth programs, and these are already planned for expansion in 2025. The Kettle Lakes Mural Project will take us into 2025 with the potential for a wide range of outreach and involvement from our adult and student community members.

We are looking forward to 2025, even though we know this work will not get easier. The environmental and political winds do not seem to be in our favor right now, but winds change, and we will do our best to keep the KLA boat sailing.

With special thanks to Colleen Zawadzki and Tom Cappa for helping to compile the information to produce this report and our sincere thanks to all the board and community members who support this most important work.

Tarki L. Heath

Tarki L. Heath,
President



This Kettle Lakes Watershed sign was erected by our organization on October 30, 2024. It is located on Tully Municipal property along Lake Road, between the I81 southbound ramp and Tully Green Lake Beach. Construction of this lovely sign was made possible through a generous, anonymous donation. The sign was designed by Song Lake native, **Paul Grillo**, who also designed our Kettle Lakes Association logo.

Kettle Lakes Association Mission Statement

Our coalition is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the kettle lakes and watersheds in Central New York.

In 2021, the Kettle Lakes Association revised the Strategic Plan from 2015. The following Strategic Planning Goals are taken from that planning process. We review the plan annually to update and revise for the coming year. That process will take place again in 2025.

Strategic Planning Goals:

GOAL 1. *We will continue to create and expand our collaborative, educational and informational outreach programs, including utilizing technology and social media outreach.*

- ***Social Media*** - We currently maintain a website, Facebook page (540 followers), a Kettle Lakes Storm Response website, and Facebook page. We use these vehicles to share timely information about our many outreach initiatives with our lake residents, guests, and local community members.
- ***Preserve and Protect our Kettle Lakes Watershed Sign Project and Unveiling*** October 30th, on Lake Road just before Tully Green Lake (Preble News Story, attached) (8,419 views of event posts on Facebook)
- ***Kettle Lakes Mural Project*** (See detailed description below)
- ***Collaborative NYSFOLA CNY Regional Conference at Little Lake Pavillion, Practical Tools for Protecting our Lakes: Challenges and Choices.*** On September 13th more than 90 participated for a day-long conference with a panel of experts and lake stewards to share research and strategies on timely and important topics. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. (2,546 FB post views)
- ***Collaborative Limnology Projects with SUNY ESF, Dr. Kimberly Schulz, and students.*** This is the 15th year of this positive collaboration between citizen science, college student research and lake associations.
- ***Conservation Field Days*** (September 19 and 20) (See below)
- ***Tully Tabling*** events at Tully Community Day, September 14th, and Kings Corner Farmers Market, August 13th
- ***All Kettle Lakes Collaborative Hybrid Meeting*** with Amanda Barber, Cortland Soil and Water Conservation District, June 20th at Tully United Community Church
The meeting was also shared as a YouTube link to folks unable to attend.



Kettle Lake "Get Together" at the Tully United Community Church, June 20th

- **Angler's Garage Sale** June 8th has become an annual community event where we share information about Aquatic Invasive Species and our ongoing CLEAN~ DRAIN~DRY initiative and fantastic fish tales!
- **Local Municipal Outreach – Articles**
Both the Town of Preble and Tully Newsletters have printed our articles about the KLA work.

GOAL 2. We plan to develop and implement a plan of assessment for existing programs.

- **A Kettle Lakes Survey** was developed and promoted on-line during May and June 2024
- **Collaborative all lakes “Get Together.”** the June 20th . For those who did not complete the survey on-line it was recreated in poster form and people were able to vote for the most important concerns they have. The concerns were HABS (Most Important) The Impact of our Warming Air and Waters on our Kettle Lakes, Changes in the Water and The Impact on Our Fisheries (Third Most Important) Water Quality in our Kettle Lakes (Tied with HABS) Our CSLAP Program, Sorm Run-Off and the Repercussions of Flooding, Septic Maintenance, Invasive Species-Both Aquatic and Terrestrial (Second Most Important)

- **Community Sharing** - Data from our 2021 August 18th storm event was shared in April with our partners at Cornell reminding us that 39.8% of respondents had shoreline erosion, 30% had damage to property, 30% experienced diminished water quality, and 63.9% had expenses greater than \$100. This provided the impetus for the Kettle Lakes Mural Project which highlights the impact of stormwater and flooding in our communities.

- **Kettle Lakes Mural Project.** Our goal is to use art as the vehicle for moving the message from our data, and the importance of preparing for coming storms, to our communities through the Kettle Lakes Mural Project. In collaboration with NYS Water Resources Institute, Cornell, We are working with renown muralist, Brandan Lazore, Onondaga Nation Snipe Clan, , who is the creative mind who will bring our collaborative ideas to fruition in 2025. We received \$15,000 in grants to put this project into action. This project overlaps many of our Strategic Plan goals, particularly goal #6.

Kettle Lakes Get Together

Thursday, June 20th 6:00PM to 7:30PM

Tully United Community Church
Free to All Kettle Lakers and Friends!



- Learn about the history of the Kettle Lake Association's community engagement.
 - Find out about the exciting, new projects to protect our lakes.
 - Share what's going on in your watershed.

Please take a moment to fill out this brief [Survey of Interest](#)
We will review all responses during this sharing session.

Light food and refreshments will be available.

Lake to Lake



Neighbor to Neighbor

More information is available at our website
www.kettlulakeassociations.org
And our Facebook page

- ***Kettle Lakes Storm Response.*** The [Storm Response](#) plan and website was developed in 2023. The website continues to be updated with current storm information and this year we purchased a meter to measure dissolved oxygen and other parameters for our collective use. This information will be essential in our efforts to analyze post storm impacts. Our plan to implement CSLAP protocols to collect data to determine the impact of major storm events was, fortunately, not needed this year, but we remain ready should the event arise.
- ***Aquatic invasive species*** continue to threaten our lakes. While each of our Kettle Lakes is addressing this concern, our collaborative conversations about new invasives and successes using water quality data and observational feedback guide us in best practices for preventing and mitigating AIS when and wherever possible.

GOAL# 3. *We plan to recruit active and ongoing membership, expanding levels of participation.*

- ***Annual Photo Contest*** - Another vehicle for sharing and promoting the beauty of our kettle lakes and the ecology of central New York is our annual photography contest with this year, more than doubling last year's number of entries with 29 amazing photographs. This year's theme, Kettle Lakes "Seasonal Beauty of Our Kettle Lakes" photo contest and Tully Craft Show tabling event. We had several new members sign up at this event. This is this year's winning photo taken by Sheely Relyea-Battle. We use these lovely photos in our Kettle Lakes All Occasion Cards to draw attention to the beauty of our kettle lakes and our need to be involved in their protection and preservation.



This year's winning photo contest entry. With permission by Sheely Relyea-Battle

GOAL # 4. We will continue our re- branding the region – Kettle Lakes – to energize. We look forward to creating “merchandise” in the future which will further this goal.

- **The Kettle Lakes Watershed Sign Project** helps local community members and visitors to our area visibly identify our Kettle Lakes and our goal of drawing attention for preservation and protection so that we can promote positive interactions with our lake ecosystems.
- **The Kettle Lakes Association** is now legally recognized as the DBA (doing business as) name for the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Associations (COFOKLA).
- **New Cards** all have the new logo and name represented on the back.
- **Replicas of our new** Kettle Lakes road sign were created as 4” by 5” magnets, for sale at our tabling events.
- **Kettle Lakes Ornaments and Magnets** were created for sale at the Tully Craft Show in December. We worked with a CNY wood artist to develop beautiful Kettle Lakes ornaments and magnets, showing the lakes, depths, and location. This turned out to be a popular addition to our tabling.

Goal # 5. We will continue to build on the structured relationships with our partners to foster funding opportunities and improve our knowledge.

- **Our partnerships** with Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, SUNY ESF, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District continue.
- **Through NYS Water Resources Institute** at Cornell University, we have obtained funding for the Kettle Lakes Mural Project. We also participate in a Nationwide initiative, [MYCoast](#)
- **Through the North American Lake Management Society’s** invitation, our lakes participated in a National Study on the Impact of Fireworks on Drinking Water Sources, July 4th.
- **With Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District**, we have continued to provide our skills and talents in providing educational outreach as in-kind contributions to support ongoing water protection grants.

GOAL # 6. We will continue to energize our community to participate and be active – watershed and environmental - stewards.

- **Cortland Water Festival**, June 1st. We had an active and well attended children’s booth at this well attended event. We informed young people and their families about the “Clean Drain and Dry,” initiative and also the impact of other aquatic invasive species which are affecting our lakes, Marie Ferro and Tarki Heath assisted at this event.



Cortland County’s Conservation Field Days for 2024, meeting with each of the county’s 6th grade students in person over one day. This initiative is an important vehicle for creating young people who are informed about AIS and who will develop a positive ethic of “Clean, Drain and Dry,” as they participate with their families in recreational activities in our region. Tarki Heath, Colleen Zawadzki and Marie Ferro facilitated at this event.

Fiscal Soundness

Balance ending December 31, 2024 - \$6,778.79

Revenues

Dues - \$875.00

Donations - \$254.00

Expenses

Fees and taxes - \$302.30

Other expenses - \$600.00

Other assets – Gift of the Kettle Lakes Watershed road sign - \$1,000.00

Members and Partnerships

Corporate Partners donation \$150.00

Our Corporate Partners receive recognition on our print and web materials and are provided with access to materials and sponsorship opportunities.

Kettle Club Member donation –\$25.00

Our Kettle Club Members receive listing on website if desired, and/or inclusion on email notices, advance notice about workshops and other lake related activities, a set of Unique Kettle Lake Note Cards and an opportunity to meet the speakers in a private setting.

2024 - Dave and Colleen Zawadzki, Marjie and Carl Grillo, Marie Ferro, Tarki and Joe Heath

Individual Member donation –\$10.00

Individual Members receive advance notice about workshops and other lake-related activities and a choice of one Unique Note Card.

Honorary Kettle Lake Steward - To those who volunteer time on events or office support.

Honorary Kettle Lake Stewards receive listing on website if desired, inclusion on email notices., advance notice about workshops and other lake related activities, an invitation to meet the speakers, a complete set of Unique Kettle Lake Note Cards.

Watershed Partners donation-\$75.00

Our Watershed Partners receive recognition on our print and web materials and access to materials and sponsorship opportunities

2024 – Tully Green Lake

Contact Tom Cappa @ 315-708-4320 to become a member at a level of your choice.





New Sign Brings Attention To Kettle Lakes Watersheds

On October 30th the Kettle Lakes Association unveiled the first installation of our "Value and Protect, Kettle Lakes Watersheds" sign. Designed by former Song Lake resident and graphic artist Paul Grillo, this beautiful sign is located along Lake Road in the area adjoining the Tully Icehouse, just before the entrance to Tully Green Lake Beach. The KL Association created and installed this sign to draw attention to the need for deliberate conservation, preservation, and protection of our watersheds. Our kettle lake watersheds combined represent an area over 19,000 acres in northern Cortland and southern Onondaga Counties. These lakes and the surrounding areas are valued for their aesthetics and recreation contributing to our local economies and are home to many important species. The sign represents four commonly known: the great blue heron, largemouth bass, yellow perch, and hemlock tree. Many of these kettle lakes experience water quality concerns such as harmful algal blooms, flooding when there is significant storm run-off, forever plastics, and invasive aquatic and terrestrial species, to name a few. Greater awareness matters, especially at a time of growing threats to water bodies throughout the state, nation, and world. We all benefit when these lakes are protected and preserved. Education and outreach are an important part of the KL Association mission, but the organization also works with many agencies and other organizations to develop watershed management and storm water plans to assist in decision-making about lake management, as well as a rapid storm response should we encounter future flooding. In addition, each lake participates in the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program, a program coordinated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. Trained volunteers gather information on water quality including measurements for phosphorus, nitrogen, temperature, clarity, chlorophyll-a, chlorides, pH, and the presence of invasive species, and harmful algal blooms. Using the data collected and the observations made, the associations are given an annual report. These reports can indicate issues of stress and decline, or improvements, and help guide continued best management practices for the lake. For more information about these lakes and the Kettle Lakes Association, go to our Facebook page or website: www.kettlakesassociation.org The Cortland - Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, doing business as Kettle Lakes Association, is a coalition of member lake associations including Crooked Lake, Little York Lake, Song Lake, Tully Lake, and partner, Tully Green Lake, committed to public outreach and education about our kettle lake watersheds. Tarki L. Heath