

Impact in our Watershed

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Many of you wonder what you can do to prepare for climate change in our region and how our ecosystems may change in the coming years. As our earth's global temperatures rise, our environment will be subject to changes in weather patterns. Climate resiliency on a local and regional level starts with awareness of the potential threats we may face in the coming years and taking proactive steps for adapting to these changes.

Potential Impact in our Region:

Harmful Algal Blooms

As the global temperature rises, more water vapor will be hanging around our watershed. This causes more intense rainfall events that lead to flash flooding and increased nutrient run-off into our waterways and lake. This compounded with warmer ambient temperatures and surface water temperatures can result in more frequent and intense harmful algal blooms in our lake.



Change in Insect Migration Patterns

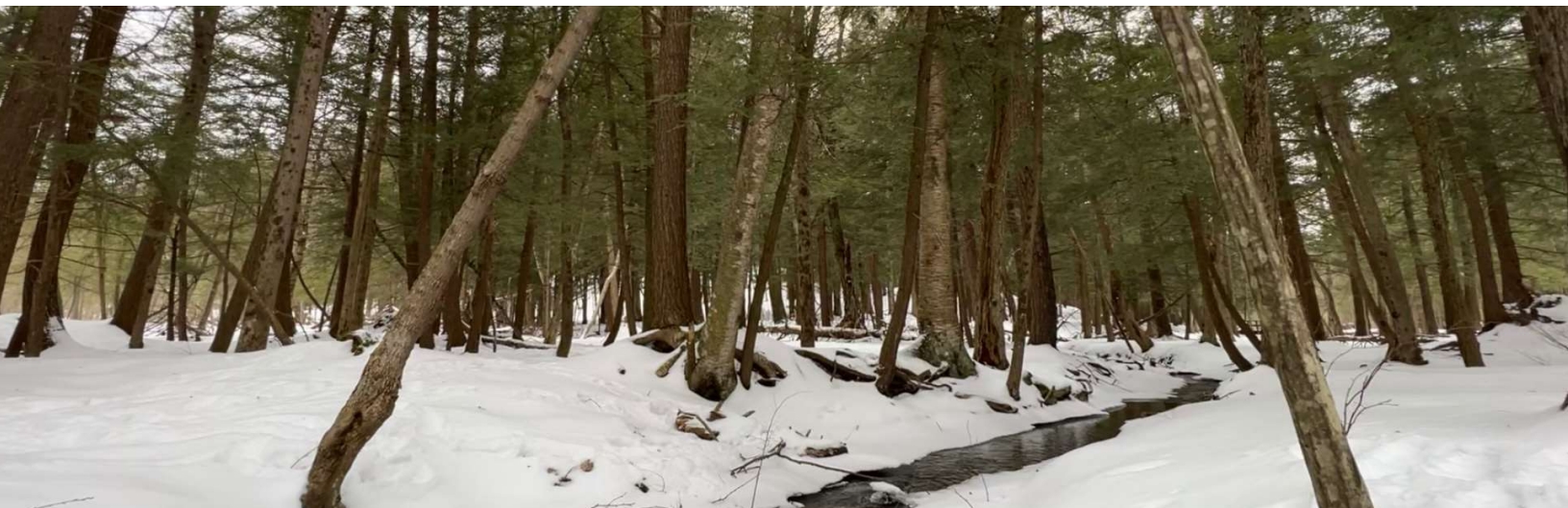
Insects are cold-blooded and migrate northward as the annual temperatures increase in our region. We have already seen the impacts of invasive insects such as the Spotted Lanternfly and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and how they can impact our ecosystems. Farmers may have more frequent losses of crops due to an increase in certain insects in our region.

Premature Budding and Freeze Damage

Climate change is causing more variable weather conditions, and unpredictable frosts in the spring can cause millions in damage to agriculture in our region. If an early warming event occurs, followed by a cold snap, this can kill crops that have begun to bud early or sap that has begun to move into the trunk of a grape vine.



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Consider these steps for addressing climate resiliency:



- Add a rain garden or rain barrel to your yard to help capture roof and stormwater run-off.



- Consider porous building materials that allow for water from storm events to percolate into the groundwater.



- Eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that could further add unwanted nutrient loads into our waterways.



- Plant native species that support the pollination of other plants and crops, and provide a food source to other species.



- Learn how to identify invasive species and report them using iMapInvasives, or notify the DEC.

- Minimize tilling in the garden as this can add additional CO₂ to the atmosphere.

- Plant trees that can help capture carbon and other air pollutants.



Lake Friendly Living Coalition

2023 FINGER LAKES

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION



As we kick off 2023, we are pleased to share a new way you can help protect our Finger Lakes throughout the year. The **Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes**, of which CLWA is a co-founder, has released a Lake Friendly New Year's Resolution for each month of 2023. As we move through the year, CLWA will provide further insight into how you can achieve these 12 Lake Friendly Tips with monthly articles, tips, social posts, and more. Check out the below resolutions, and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and read our monthly e-newsletter for more information!

JAN	REMOVE SNOW AND ICE THE LAKE FRIENDLY WAY Alternatives to standard rock salt, like magnesium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate, are less damaging to ecosystems. Shovel before salting, and pre-salt before a storm.
FEB	LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL LAKE ASSOCIATION Each lake has its own lake association with great resources on Lake Friendly Living. Visit their webpage to learn about the many ways we can improve Finger Lakes' water quality together!
MAR	TAKE THE LAKE FRIENDLY PLEDGE Take the Lake Friendly Living and Lake Friendly Lawn Care Pledge to show your support for the LFL programs throughout the Finger Lakes!
APR	PLANT NATIVES & REDUCE INVASIVES Native plants are crucial for pollinators and wildlife, and they require less water and fertilizer. Avoid invasive plants that can severely impair native plants and species' ability to thrive.
MAY	PARTICIPATE IN LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING AWARENESS MONTH Join the Lake Friendly Living Coalition during Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month and participate in workshops, webinars, and volunteer efforts to support the health of our lakes!
JUN	INSPECT YOUR SEPTIC Septic systems should be inspected frequently to mitigate risks of nutrient run-off into our lakes. Contact your county for information on inspections and schedule an inspection.
JUL	SWAP INCENDIARY FLARES FOR LED Traditional flares contain harmful chemicals that pollute our soil and waterways. Switch to LED Flares to light up your summer holidays the Lake Friendly way!
AUG	USE WATER WISELY Planting drought-resistant plants, using a rain barrel to collect water, and using drip irrigation or sprinkler at the coolest times of day are a few ways to conserve water this summer.
SEP	TEST YOUR SOIL AND FERTILIZE ONLY IF NEEDED Cornell Cooperative Ext. volunteers will test your soil for as little as \$2 to determine if your soil needs fertilizer. Fall is a great time to fertilize naturally with yard compost and mulched leaves!
OCT	COMPOST OR BAG YOUR LEAF LITTER Minimize debris in stormwater drains by utilizing your municipalities yard debris pick-up services in spring and fall. Mulch your leaves into natural compost for your gardens.
NOV	WATCH YOUR WASTE Switch to biodegradable plates & cutlery, and compost food scraps. Consider your gift wrap, lights, and decorations carefully! Shop locally, support small farms, and bring your own bag!
DEC	YEAR END EVALUATIONS OF PROPERTY AND LAKE FRIENDLY PRACTICES Assess your property and plan for Lake Friendly success in 2024. Find great property assessment tools online, like this one: watersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Lake-Protection-Workbook.pdf