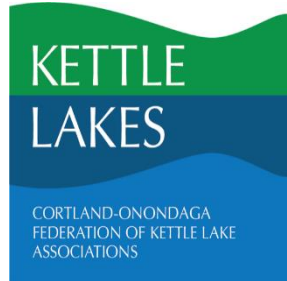


Kettle Lakes Association  
(Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc)  
End of Year Report for 2022

March 2023



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

Corporate Partners: Saint Charles Bay Cares, AXI Digital  
Watershed Partners: Tom and Mary Cappa

**Board of Directors**

Tarki Heath: President (Song Lake)  
Vacant: Vice President  
Tom Cappa: Treasurer (Crooked Lake)  
Evelyn Petit: Secretary (Tully Lake)  
Marie Ferro: Little York Lake Representative  
Tom Spangenberg: Crooked Lake Representative  
Marjorie Grillo: Song Lake Representative  
Colleen Zawadzki: Tully Lake Representative

[Kettle Lakes Association](http://KettleLakesAssociation.com)  
[contact@cofokla.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.charitiesnys.com) or (212) 416-8401.

## Executive Summary

While it felt as if 2022 was a relatively “slow year,” looking back, we accomplished quite a bit!

While events are not taking place at the pace they did prior to the pandemic, we are seeing increasingly more in-person gatherings. Our largest event in 2022, was the NYS Central New York Regional Conference. More about this successful event is detailed on page 5 of this report. We also participated in the NYSFOLA Statewide Conference in Lake George, where our Tully Representative, Colleen Zawadzki was presented with the Lake Steward Award, for her work on Tully Lake and with C-OFOKLA.

Shore scaping projects continued this year in and around Tully, capping off the season with a collaborative tree sale sponsored by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. We continue to maintain and develop strong partnerships in our region with both the Onondaga County and Cortland County Soil and Water Districts. They work in different ways to provide our lakes with funding and support, but their cooperation assists us as we work to buffer our lakes from storm water impacts and mitigate some of the invasive and abundant weed growth in our lakes.

Members of the Storm Response Team worked long hours in remote meetings and at the keyboard to develop a strong Kettle Lakes Storm Response Plan. There are many parts to this plan, and the initiative for it, and results, can be read on page 5 and at the website:

**[www.kettlelakesstormresponse.org](http://www.kettlelakesstormresponse.org)**

The Five-Year Strategic Plan (2021-2026) was reviewed for this year’s goal setting. Those goals are outlined on pages 6 and 7 with items that showcase our successes. The entire plan can be read here: **[COFOKLA Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#)**

We are delighted to announce that Tully Green Lake, a small kettle lake, just north of and connected to Tully Lake, is working to organize their own lake association. Agreements are in process to bring this newly formed association into C-OFOKLA in 2023.

We look forward to the coming year with plans for more face-to-face, interactive events, increasing collaborations and memberships, as we continue stewardship projects for our beautiful kettle lakes.

*Tarki L. Heath*

Tarki L. Heath,  
President

The Bylaws can be viewed as attached to the email, or here: **[REVISED BYLAWS](#)**

## Collaboration and Grant Writing

### Funding for Shore scaping Projects:

The Watershed Implementation Plans developed by Princeton Hydro through our Chesapeake Technical Capacity Grant in 2017, continue to guide us and provides support for our work with municipalities in our watersheds. The plans may be viewed on our website at: [Lake Management — Kettle Lakes Association](#). As we address aquatic invasive species management, these plans provide useful information as we look at addressing storm runoff, diminishing nutrient loading and the growing number of harmful algal blooms (HABs) which are becoming more problematic in our kettle lakes.

### Tully Wastewater Treatment Plantings

In 2022, our collaborative work with Onondaga County Soil and Water (OCSWD) and Upper Susquehanna Coalition continued with the focus moving from individual lake shore scaping projects to a development of a multiple buffers, targeting potential large-scale storm runoff at the Tully Wastewater Treatment Plant. In the spring, a buffer was planted along the shoreline which runs parallel to the plant, which threatened to breach during the two significant storm events of 2021. This storm dumped more than 8 inches of rain within a short period of time. A second large scale planting of 600 shrubs followed in autumn on the opposite shoreline, at the base of large downslope on a 3 1/4-acre hill which adjoins the tributary that empties into the south end of Tully Lake. This occurred with the cooperation of more than 60 members of the Tully Community and included members of Tully Action Group, Scouts and Tully School District families and students. This multigenerational event and educational outreach opportunity created a greater understanding of how storm runoff can impact our kettle lakes and developed a greater appreciation for the potential that mature trees have for intercepting precipitation.

### USC Tree Festival:

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, more than 30 people stopped by Tully United Community Church which offered their parking lot and adjoining wooded area for our first ever Tree and Shrub Festival. Members of Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), and the Kettle Lakes Association offered planting demonstrations and free giveaways of shrubs and trees, native to our ecosystem. Witch hazel, nannyberry, button bush, service berry, and black tupelo were among those offered. Planting trees and shrubs remains a target goal for reducing potentially harmful storm runoff into our kettle lakes.

### Freshwater Futures Grant for Storm Response Website:

Kettle Lakes Association received a \$3,000 grant for grassroots project expenses and activities that promote water protection through an increased web-based capacity.



We did this by improving our C-OFOKLA website and migrating it to a site that which uses our new brand name and thus, will be easier to search, “Kettle Lakes Association.” This rebranding (See Logo) is intended to make our efforts easier to identify, recall and access. In addition, this funding was used to create a new domain name and website for our newest major initiative, Kettle Lakes Storm Response Team.

## Kettle Lakes Storm Response

This initiative grew out of the impact of two huge rainstorms in August and October of 2021 the first of which was scientifically called an ‘atmospheric river,’ and which caused severe flooding in the Kettle Lakes community. The storms brought record level rainfall amounts, causing damage to property, road washouts, impaired lake water and drinking water quality, damage to septic systems and other serious water contamination issues. The goal of the committee, which was comprised of members from each of our Kettle Lakes Associations, was to provide a central clearinghouse for information on storm event response, and recovery. In addition to the website, [Kettle Lakes Storm Response Resources](#), an emergency [Kettle Lakes Storm Response Guide](#) was created, and which provides a multitude of resources for our kettle lakes community members. These resources will continue to roll out and be shared with our kettle lakes associations and the broader communities we serve in 2023. A [Kettle Lakes Storm Response FB page](#) was developed to serve as an additional vehicle for sharing information expeditiously. A highlight of the Freshwater Futures Grant will be their ongoing technical support in the area of ARC GIS survey development and mapping, which we anticipate will be helpful in the future.

**NYSFOLA and the NYS DEC - The Citizens’ Statewide Lake Assessment Program** continues to be the best way for our lakes to see in real time the changes that are occurring regarding water quality in in more than 260 lakes across New York State including our kettle lakes. In spite of the pandemic, this program continued under NYS COVID19 Protocols for the entire 2022 season. The 2022 CSLAP Sampling Protocol below describes the goal of the program and parameters which must be adhered to by our kettle lakes in the collection of reliable data on individual waters to provide baseline information and document trends in water quality. The process identifies and assesses specific problems on individual waters and makes recommendations to deal with these problems. Once again, the education of lake residents, users, and interested citizens in the collection and implementation of water quality data, lake ecology, and management practices is of paramount importance. [2022 CSLAP SAMPLING PROTOCOL REVISED.pdf \(nysfola.org\)](#)

## Collaboration with the future Tully Green Lake Association:

We are providing support to our neighboring kettle lake as they pursue this designation with hopes of eventually joining our larger Kettle Lakes Association. This will then promote data collection around lake quality.

## Outreach at Conferences:

*2022 NYSFOLA Annual Conference, “Maximizing Your Lake Data,”* (Lake George) Two members of Kettle Lakes Association Board received statewide awards for their work as lake stewards. We provided support in the development and implementation of this conference which was well attended and extended many opportunities for dialogue and problem-solving conversations. These ideas were then brought back and shared at the local level.

*2022 NYSFOLA CNY Regional Conference, "Collaboration: The Key to Watershed Protection and Water Quality,"* (Little York Pavilion)

Kettle Lakes Association board members and a number of our lake association members planned and implemented this well received conference which was attended by more than 85 participants and which featured more than 15 not-for-profit

### CNY Regional NYSFOLA Conference August 19, 2022

#### PROGRAM

9:30 – 10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome <i>Thank you, NYSFOLA and Kettle Lakes Association</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Buffering the Rain <i>Lake Friendly Land Care - Frank Moore, Skamnikville Lake Association Off the Lakeshore - banding together to purchase land for easements - Lydia Bittinsky, Upper Saratoga County</i>
11:30 – 11:30	Break (10 minutes)
11:30 – 12:15	Looking at Long Term Trends in Your Lake <i>Understanding impact of events on water quality by analyzing CSLAP historical data and other variables - Andrew Bittinsky, Upper Saratoga County</i>
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:20	Stormwater Impacts on Vulnerable Systems <i>The Economic Value of our Lakes to a Town and the Best Available Septic Technologies - Jim Cunningham, Madison County Supervisor/Chair of Resiliency Stormwater Impacts from Road Ditches and Other Sources - Rebecca Schneider, Cornell University</i>
2:20 – 2:30	Break (10 minutes)
2:30 – 3:45	Land Trusts Working for Water Quality <i>Three well established land trusts will present exciting information about the collaborative work they are each doing on their watersheds, helping to protect our lakes, and supporting water quality improvement. Rock Ridge, Kettle Lakes Land Trust Rock Smecton and Pool Pointe, Central NY Land Trust Olive Green, The Nature Conservancy</i>
3:45 – 4:15	Q & A Panel
4:15 – 4:30	Raffle / Evaluation / Closing Remarks <i>Gifts, Awards, Tally the Association Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA</i>

vendors and a stellar

array of presenters.

**Promotion of C-OFOKLA, Based on our Strategic Plan Goals**  
**Colleen Zawadzki, Committee Facilitator**

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

Our newly developed and upgraded websites will be shared with lake associations, community groups and others as we actively seek collaborations and strategies to address our kettle lake concerns. Nearly 450 people follow our two Facebook Pages. Each of the Kettle Lakes Association member lakes feature links to these resources.

Our partnerships with Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District will continue into 2023.

**Articles in Preble News** – We find connecting with our Preble neighbors is easily done through articles in the Preble News. Last year we published two, one in April and another in October.

[Welcome to Open Water and Spring!](#)

[The 2022, CNY Regional NYSFOLA Conference: Collaboration, the key to watershed protection and water quality.](#)

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

We continue to seek ways of determining the success of our outreach, programs, and lake mitigation solutions. We use social media data, survey information, individual lake association feedback, feedback from meetings and conversations with municipalities, partners, and agencies to set goals, determine areas of concerns, and to address the needs of our lake association members. Our Kettle Lakes Storm Response Team surveyed our four kettle lake associations after the storm events of 2021 to determine the scope and breadth of the impact on properties, lake water quality and communities. More than 85 people responded and we used their feedback to assist in the development of the Emergency Storm Response Guide, web site and FB pages. [The survey is here.](#)

We will use CSLAP protocols to collect data to determine the impact of future major storm events by doing water quality testing at deep water sites prior and after significant storm events on each of the four kettle lakes.

Each of our Kettle Lakes is addressing the concern of aquatic invasive species. Our collaborative conversations about successes and concerns using water quality data and observational feedback, then guide us in best practices for mitigating these serious concerns.

**Real Time Hab Monitoring, Using AI Microscopy:**

This developing collaboration with Bloom Optix LLC provided several Kettle Lakes Board members with training in the use of a high-quality microscope to determine local HAB outbreaks in our kettle lakes. This information then could be communicated with our constituents.

This new collaboration with Dr. Ruth Richardson and her staff (Cornell University) trained us in the use of a portable and affordable microscope to begin to identify HABs and then utilize their resources

to further determine potential toxicity. Once again, this information can then be communicated to lake residents.

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

Another vehicle for sharing and promoting the beauty of our kettle lakes and the ecology of central New York was our annual photography contest. This year's theme, "Our Amazing Kettle Lakes Area," resulted in 12 spectacular entries with many "hits" and "likes." More than 570 people viewed our photos online, with many voting for their favorites and which concluded with in-person voting at the end of the Tully Craft Fair. We often use these photos on our publicity outreach and Kettle Lakes Card series.

**Tully Farmers Market and Tully Craft Show**

These two multi-generational events offering tabling opportunities to share our materials, merchandise, and outreach to our community regarding initiatives and issues. Final voting (Below) on our annual photo contest is at this well attended event.



***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. We are also in the process of creating two Kettle Lakes Watersheds signs to visibly identify the area and promote positive interactions with our ecosystems.

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

This year emphasized a growing relationship with the Town of Tully, Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District and Upper Susquehanna Coalition, in the development of a stream side buffer project at Tully Wastewater. (See above)

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

Cortland Water Festival, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. Colleen Zawadzki, Marie Fero and Tarki Heath assisted at this event.

Kettle Lakes Association participated in Cortland County's Conservation Field Days for 2022, meeting with the county's 6<sup>th</sup> 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, and Marie Ferro facilitated at this event.

# Fiscal Soundness

## Members and Partnerships:

### ➤ Our Lake Association Members

C-OFOKLA maintains the original founding lake associations as voting members. These are Crooked Lake Homeowners Association, Little York Lake Property Owners Association, Song Lake Property Owners Association, and the Tully Lake Property Owners Association.

### ➤ Our Partners

#### **Corporate Partners donation \$150.00**

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

#### **Current Corporate Partners (2022) :**

- **None reported.**

#### **Watershed Partners donation \$75.00**

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

#### **Current Watershed Partners (2022):**

- **None reported.**

#### **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.

#### **Our Kettle Club members (2022):**

- **None reported.**

#### **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. **The following Honorary Kettle Lake Stewards have participated in shore scaping in 2020, 2021, 2022:** Swan Family- Mark Swan and Shaileen Swan, Melinda Portmess, Ray Ranaldo, Alice Alsever, Jean Carol Bacon, Tom Fox, and Ginger Humphrey (Family), Rick and Hanna Nye (Family), Diane Sipfle

#### **Lake Association dues ( rec'd 2022): \$1200.00**

- \$400 for 2021-2022 dues
- \$800 for 2022-2023 dues

#### ➤ **Donations (2022)= \$5.49**

- **The Giving Foundation (\$49)**
- **Craft Show Customer Donation (\$5.00)**

#### ➤ **Grants (2022): \$3000**

- **Freshwater Future Grant (\$3000)**

#### ➤ **Sales Fund Raising Initiatives (2022)=\$130.00**

- **Tully Craft Shows Sales (\$130.00)**

#### ➤ **Fund Balances: For the fiscal period of January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022**

- Opening Balance= \$5440.16
- Revenue = \$4335.49
- Expenses = \$3377.98
- **Ending balance = \$6,397.67**