

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**JUNE 29, 2021**

***Committee Members: Supervisors Thomas, Geraghty, Diamond, Bruno, Beaty, Magowan and Frasier***

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Chair.
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee meeting - *December 3, 2020*
- III. Action Agenda/New Business Items:
- IV. Discussion Items:
  - 1) Reserves/Assigned fund Balance
    - a. SUNY Adirondack
    - b. Capital Improvement Plan - Project Assessment
    - c. Countryside Rehabilitation
    - d. Funding of Roads and Projects.
  - 2) 2020 Annual Reports for organizations funded by the Board of Supervisors:
    - Adirondack North Country Association
    - Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board
    - Cornell Cooperative Extension
    - City of Glens Falls
    - Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board
    - Southern Adirondack Library System
    - Warren County Historical Society
    - Lake George Park Commission

*Reports were not provided by: Economic Development Corp., Local Development Corp., or Lakes to Locks Passage.*
  - 3) 2022 Budget preparation and calendar.
- V. Referrals/Pending Items: None.
- VI. Privilege of the Floor to discuss any additional items to come before the Committee
- VII. Motion to adjourn

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Attachments:

- 1) Adirondack North Country Association 2019/2020 Report
- 2) Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board 2020 Report
- 3) Cornell Cooperative Extension 2020 Report
- 4) City of Glens Falls 2020 Report
- 5) Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board 2020 Report
- 6) Southern Adirondack Library System 2020 Report
- 7) Warren County Historical Society 2020 Report
- 8) Lake George Park Commission 2020 Report

## Allen, Amanda

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**From:** Wargo, Caitlin <cwargo@adirondack.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** Allen, Amanda  
**Subject:** Re: ANCA Annual Report  
**Attachments:** ANCA\_AR19forWEB.pdf

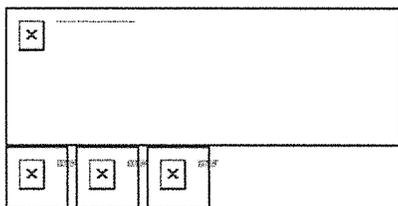
Amanda - thanks so much for all your help and patience!

PDF of our annual report is attached.

Be well!

Caitlin

Caitlin Wargo | Communications and Development Director  
Adirondack North Country Association  
67 Main Street, Suite 201  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
Mobile: (917) 593-2899  
[cwargo@adirondack.org](mailto:cwargo@adirondack.org)  
[www.adirondack.org](http://www.adirondack.org)



On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 12:14 PM Wargo, Caitlin <[cwargo@adirondack.org](mailto:cwargo@adirondack.org)> wrote:  
Hi Amanda - Sorry to put you through this.

Yes - that is the report that we would typically have done in September, but was just completed. It includes 2019 financials - which are the most recent we have, with activities and impacts of 2019 and 2020 (with everything in upheaval, reporting on 2019 only as everything was changing so dramatically day to day, we made the decision to incorporate some of 2020 into the report.

I realize, looking through my emails, that I promised to send a PDF did not get that off to you.

Will this suffice for our 2020 voucher?

I am happy to discuss!



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

 **ANCA**  
Growing The New Economy

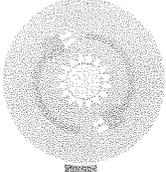
# Our Impacts: 2019-2020



## FOOD SYSTEMS

Nearly **20,000** North Country children were served local food in school and **13 REGIONAL FARMS** sold directly to schools.

**21 LOCAL FARMS**, food businesses and community organizations were **AWARDED \$208,462** for projects that increase economic stability for farmers and their employees while expanding access to nutritious local food for low- and moderate-income households.



## CLEAN ENERGY

**204 COMMUNITIES** engaged with ANCA's Clean Energy Team to learn about and implement energy-saving and cost-saving projects like LED light conversion, electric vehicle charging stations, battery storage and efficiency upgrades.

**OVER \$2.4M** in state and federal funds were invested in community solar, street lighting, clean transportation and other energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL ECONOMY

**100 TRANSITIONING BUSINESSES, 2 BUSINESS INVESTORS** and **46 ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS** worked with the Center for Businesses in Transition — a regional partnership embraced by **98 ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS** striving to keep local businesses open for future generations.

**22 SMALL BUSINESSES** worked with Clarkson University students, faculty and local web developers to boost e-commerce marketing skills and website impact.

Over **110 REGIONAL MAKERS** built relationships with **300+ RETAILERS** at ANCA's annual artisan tradeshow and developed wholesaling and marketing skills through workshops.



## ADIRONDACK DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

ADI welcomed its inaugural director, Nicole Hylton-Patterson, in December 2019. *See page 8 for details.*



# Dear ANCA Community,

This annual report is late. Here's why.

When the COVID-19 shutdown transformed our lives, our work and the businesses, farmers and communities with whom we work, literally every single one of our 15-member staff pivoted to reach out to the people who form the backbone of our regional economy, finding out what they needed most urgently. We responded quickly to provide support for securing federal aid, e-commerce transition programming, grants to farmers coping with the crisis, and virtual events about pressing topics including small business crisis management and antiracism.

Thank you for your patience and understanding — and for your support, which has made this important and unexpected work possible.

**YOUR ENGAGEMENT AND YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE** in the transformative work that ANCA does. As you look through these pages, we invite you to think about two big ideas that underscore the impacts and stories in this report:

**MULTIPLIER IMPACT:** We think of you, our members, donors and grantors as investors in transforming regional economies. We hold ourselves accountable to you to deliver a high multiplier impact for every dollar you invest in our work. In conventional economic theory, an increase in investment will improve the level of income and employment by a multiplied amount. In addition to income and employment, the multiplier impacts we see in our work include broader access to healthy food, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, more entrepreneurs in the region, and greater community vitality and resilience.

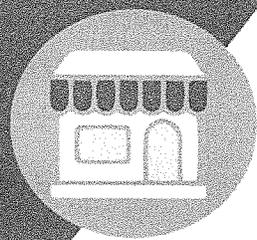
**TIPPING POINT:** Your investment is helping the region reach tipping points where a series of small changes becomes significant enough to cause larger, more important change, and where local economies become self-sustaining and are not dependent on outside resources to keep them going. That's what we strive for.

ANCA is engaged in doing this hard work today so that the future of the region is, quite frankly, easier. We believe that this is possible, and we rely on you to invest in this work and to hold us on course.

Warm regards and our thanks for your support,

Kate Fish,  
Executive Director

Jim Sonneborn,  
Board President



## Transitioning a legacy of hospitality

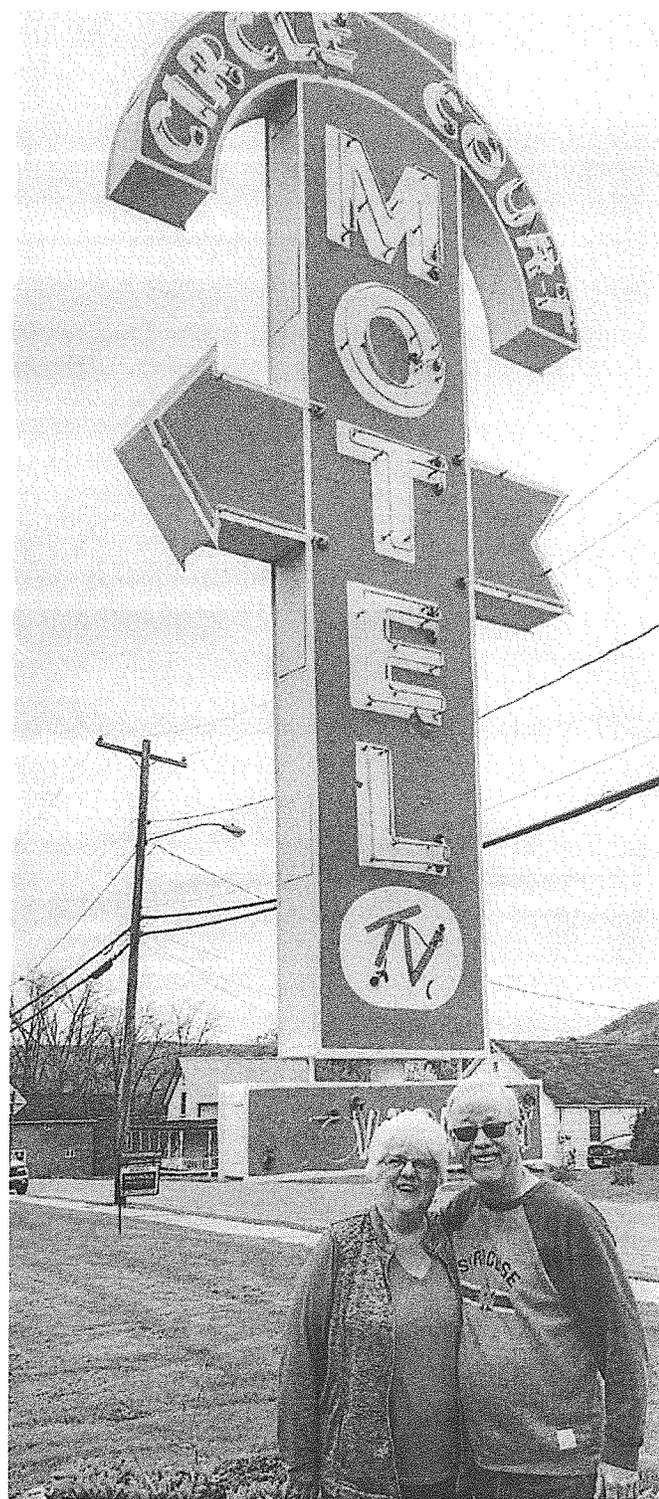
**Jerry and Barb Greer** and the **Circle Court Motel** have been fixtures in the Ticonderoga community for over 30 years. So much more than a job for the Greers, the classic Adirondack motel has provided a livelihood and lifestyle — a place to raise their family, nurture community ties and build relationships with visitors from all over the world.

**As tens of thousands of North Country businesses face closure** due to retirement and the COVID-19 crisis, small business owners like Jerry and Barb are working with the **Center for Businesses in Transition** partnership to connect with the next generation of entrepreneurs who will keep the lights on for years to come.

Spearheaded by ANCA and supported by a 2018 Northern Border Regional Commission grant, the Center launched its programs and regional network of community liaisons in early 2019. Since then, CBIT partners\* have had conversations with **326 business owners, 122 aspiring entrepreneurs and over 200 workshop participants** who care deeply about the future of our local businesses.

“The advice and resources we’ve received from both ANCA and CBIT have been invaluable as we plan for the future and cope with new challenges during the pandemic,” said Jerry. “We greatly appreciate the support they have provided us in marketing to both customers and potential buyers.”

*\*The Center’s organizational partners include: Adirondack Economic Development Corporation; ANCA; Cornell Cooperative Extension North Country Ag Team; County of Franklin Local Development Corporation and Franklin County IDA; Essex County IDA; Greater Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce; Hamilton County Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Hamilton County IDA; Lewis County Economic Development and IDA; St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce; Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce; Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; and SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center at Clinton Community College.*



*“The advice and resources we’ve received from both ANCA and CBIT have been invaluable as we plan for the future...”*

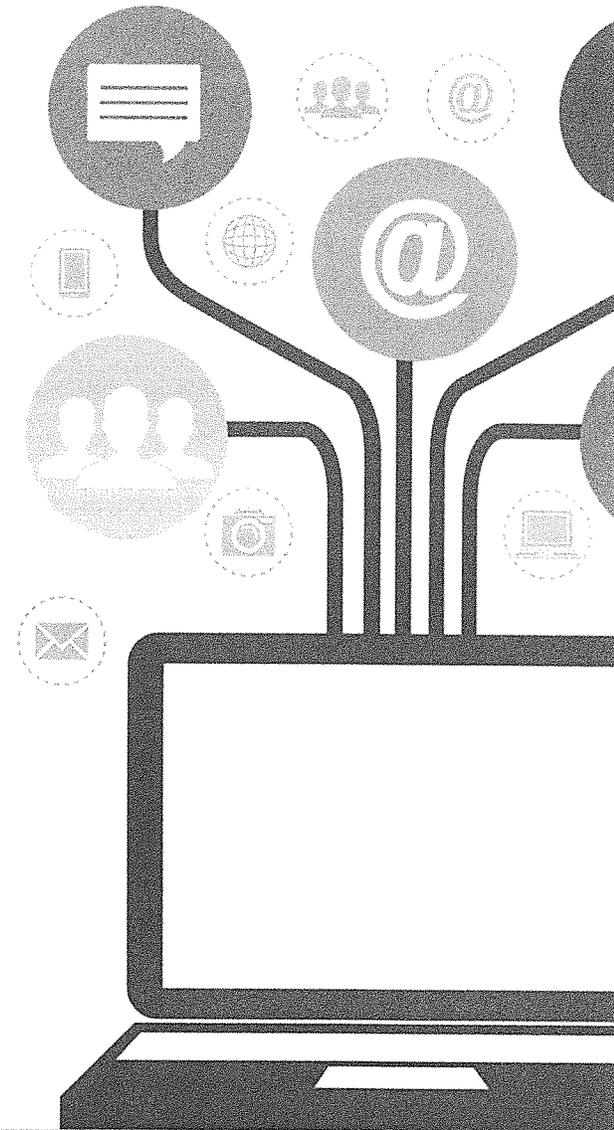
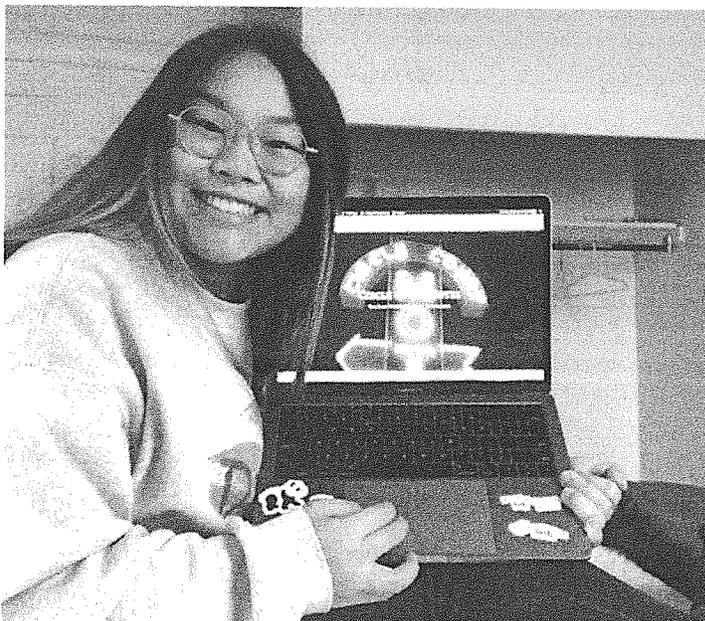
# Building partnerships for long-term impacts

North Country small business owners — from new entrepreneurs to folks like Jerry and Barb who are preparing for retirement — faced unique challenges and negative financial impacts when the COVID-19 pandemic halted our economies earlier this year. Recognizing the need for owners to add value and relevance to their businesses during these difficult times, ANCA and partners pivoted to create solutions for these businesses.

This spring and summer, ANCA staff collaborated with students and faculty from **Clarkson University's Shipley Center for Innovation**, the **St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce** and local web developers to address critical e-commerce and website development needs during the pandemic. Through the first round of the **Student WEB Program\***, the team has provided **nine full website builds and 13 marketing consultations**.

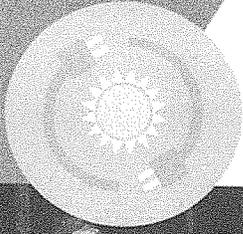
"This project is really a win-win," said Clarkson professor and lead developer Eric York. "It's a win for local businesses who get the technical assistance they need, and it's a win for students who get authentic learning experiences and a real sense of accomplishment."

The program has created skills-building connections between enterprising students like Jada Flanigan, pictured, and small businesses like the Circle Court Motel in Ticonderoga.

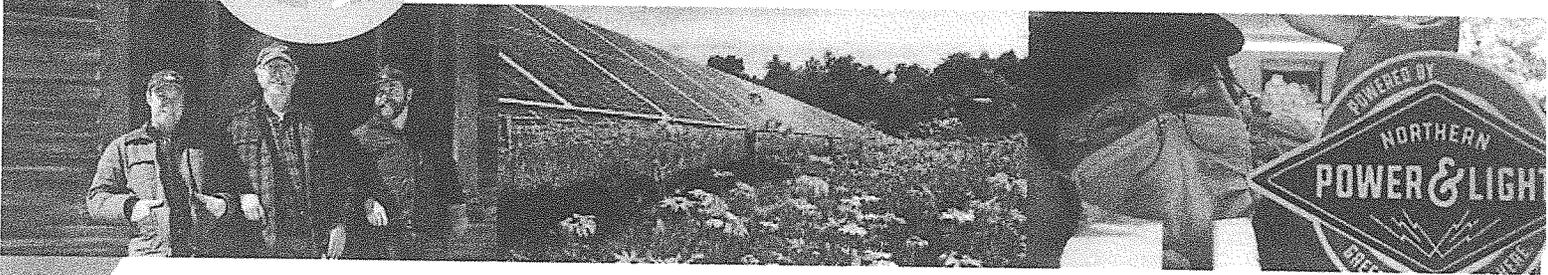


*These students represent the next generation of North Country entrepreneurs whose creativity brings vitality to our region's business community.*

*\*This project was funded by a generous ANCA member, a Special and Urgent Needs grant from Adirondack Foundation and the Shipley Center for Innovation.*



## Localizing renewable energy



**Brothers Emmett and Ethan Smith** are carrying a legacy of clean power into the next generation. Nearly 20 years after their father Everett and uncle Matt Foley installed the Azure Mountain Power hydroelectric facility at an existing dam in St. Regis Falls, NY, the brothers' new Saranac Lake based company, **Northern Power & Light** (NP&L), now provides North Country residents and businesses the opportunity to purchase locally generated clean and renewable hydropower.

*By supporting small business development, local power generation and a clean energy workforce, these projects are keeping wealth local and growing our region's clean energy economy.*

In February 2020, Northern Power & Light went live with the first Community Distributed Generation (CDG) project in the Adirondacks, providing 150 local customers with electricity from Azure Mountain Power, which is only the second CDG project in New York State to utilize hydropower. This fall, NP&L added the Sissonville plant in Potsdam, NY to its portfolio. The 3.1 megawatt facility will be the largest CDG operation in the state, with the capacity to provide hydroelectricity to over 1,000 customers.

**Saranac Lake Community Solar** will soon be distributing a different kind of locally generated clean electricity. The 2-megawatt ground-mounted solar project on the outskirts of Saranac Lake is expected to produce 2.3 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually and provide solar energy credits to approximately 160 homes and businesses. In addition, the project has partnered with the Adirondack Pollinator Project to seed the array field with pollinator-friendly plants, creating 10 acres of pollinator habitat at the project site. The project is the first community solar installation in the Adirondack Park.

"We are proud to have been involved in bringing solar to Saranac Lake, a community which has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to protecting its natural resources and supporting its local businesses," said Conrad Karsten of Saranac Lake Community Solar. "The community solar program provides an opportunity for more members of the community to directly support these values while benefiting from the savings of renewable energy."

**ANCA's Clean Energy Program staff have worked alongside NP&L and Saranac Lake Community Solar to advance these and other Community Distributed Generation projects and increase production and consumption of regionally generated renewable energy.**

*Photos (left to right): Elhan, Everett and Emmett Smith; Pollinator-friendly plants will grow beneath the Saranac Lake solar array; The Potsdam Food Co-op is a proud subscriber with NP&L.*

*“ANCA gets it. They understand that regenerative, local agriculture is foundational to healthy communities and resilient local economies.”*

~ Kevin Richardson,  
Agbotic co-founder,  
ANCA board member

## Fostering regenerative, locally-rooted agriculture

The COVID-19 economic shutdown revealed clear vulnerabilities in our nation’s supply chains, underscoring the importance of strong local food systems. **Agbotic, Inc.**, a “SmartFarm” located in Sackets Harbor, NY, demonstrated how important that connection to local markets is during uncertain times.

Facing the instant loss of their wholesale accounts during the pandemic’s early weeks, Agbotic’s 21-person team switched to serving the needs of local communities experiencing rising food insecurity. Led by founders John Gaus, Cody Morris and Kevin Richardson, Agbotic began distributing their robotically grown greens and vegetables to food pantries — at last count, over 30,000 pounds of organic produce.

As markets and supply chains re-opened, Agbotic has kept its staff fully employed and able to ramp up sales going forward.

Over the past eight years, **ANCA has been pleased to connect Agbotic to customers through our farm-to-school programs and to New York State financing to help grow their operation.** At once both deeply local and globally scalable, they offer well-paying, skilled jobs and a model for other farms looking to diversify in the face of climate change. In fact, Agbotic has just announced that they are going global in 2021, opening a European-based greenhouse operation in Ireland.

The example they have set during this pandemic demonstrates that responsive business practices **create positive multiplier impacts and address the needs of local communities without compromising profitability.**

*Photos courtesy of Agbotic (top to bottom): The Agbotic team delivers its “GoodHealthy” brand of produce to North Country food pantries; SmartFarm greenhouses in Sackets Harbor, NY; Organic greens grow in Agbotic’s rich soils.*



# Centering racial equity in the New Economy

When Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI) Director Nicole Hylton-Patterson took on the inaugural role at ANCA's office in December 2019, nobody could have predicted the rollercoaster of a year that would follow.

Just three months later, we closed our office to stop the spread of the coronavirus. By early June, protests erupted around the world in response to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. In the Adirondack North Country and across the nation, the two crises created uncertainty, instability and a growing movement for systemic change.

Through it all, Nicky worked with ANCA and the ADI Core Team, providing insight and expertise that has

informed our work and touched our lives.

ADI was established in 2015 as a volunteer-run collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to helping the region become more welcoming and inclusive. In May 2019, New York's Department of Environmental Conservation awarded \$250,000 of its 2020 budget to ANCA to develop and manage ADI. Part of the DEC's Environmental Protection Fund, the grant allowed us to hire Nicky and expand ADI's programming and outreach. ANCA was selected to be ADI's home because of our longstanding leadership, our strong partnerships and our history managing grants and philanthropic funds.

**With Nicky's support, ANCA has taken steps to acknowledge systemic racism and begin centering a racial equity theory of change in our work:**

- Released a public statement in support of Black Lives Matter
- Designated Juneteenth, also known as Black Independence Day or Freedom Day, an official ANCA holiday
- Focused ANCA's Annual Meeting on racial equity in the North Country economy
- Adopted the ANCA Board Resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Released a plan for articulating a racial equity theory of change in each of our program areas
- Engaged the first of several cultural consciousness trainings and development sessions
- Articulated a preliminary logic map for a five-year strategic vision for DEI

In response to increased engagement in these pressing issues throughout the region, ANCA staff has supported ADI by facilitating virtual events, community outreach and public communications.

We are grateful to all who have donated to ADI. Your support helps ADI and ANCA remain responsive to our constituents' needs, while upholding our vision for a New Economy that Works for All.



*Photo: The ADI Core Team welcomed Nicole Hylton-Patterson as the Initiative's inaugural director at the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake on December 18, 2019.*

# Financials: Fiscal Year 2019

ANCA's work is made possible through the commitment and generosity of our partners, members and supporters. Thank you.

The information presented below has been drawn from audited financial statements for the 2019 fiscal year. These statements can be made available by contacting ANCA or by writing to the New York State of

the Attorney General, Charities Bureau,  
120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

ANCA is a registered not-for-profit under the 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code. All contributions made to ANCA are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal Tax ID: 15-0563934.

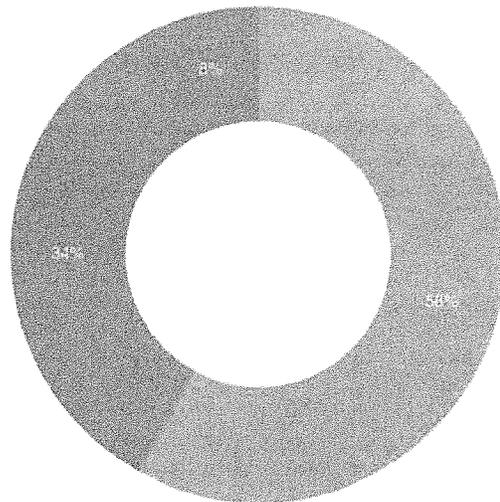
## Revenue and Income

	2018	2019
Program Revenue	\$90,595	\$31,080
State & Federal Grants	\$980,701	\$734,569
Private Contributions	\$188,737	\$538,210
Special Projects		\$18,500
Interest Income	\$122	\$296
Other Income		\$6,543
<b>Total Revenue and Income</b>	<b>\$1,266,698</b>	<b>\$1,322,655</b>

## 2019 Expense Breakdown

Program	\$663,366
Outreach/Communication	\$94,357
Operation	\$388,619
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,146,342</b>

Program
  Outreach/Communication
  Operation



# Investing in local farms

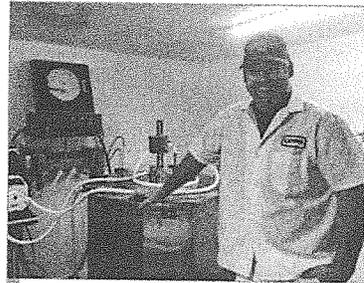
The ANCA community came together to lift up our region's small farms through the Local Farm Challenge. Members and donors contributed \$103,504 to ANCA's programs to match the \$100,000 that anonymous donors provided to help North Country farmers make modest but critical improvements to increase capacity.

As ANCA looks to develop additional methods to connect farmers with much-needed capital, the \$103,962 in Local Farm Grants made a real difference for these eight farms across the region. One silver lining in the pandemic has been the high demand for locally-grown food; this demand also meant some of the projects were delayed until the busy season slowed. We are grateful to our generous community members and thrilled to share these stories with you:



Dave and Marge Randles, owners of **Argyle Cheese Farmer**, purchased a batch freezer for their Washington County farm and creamery. The new freezer

allows the couple to add popular sorbet and gelato to the 600 pounds of cheese curds they sell each week, along with yogurt, farmstead cheese and buttermilk.



Tyler and Shannon Eaton of **Blue Pepper Farm** in Jay, NY have doubled production and sales of their sheep

milk yogurt, which they produced in the on-farm creamery they installed inside an existing barn this past spring. Prior to the new grant-funded setup, the farmers made their yogurt at a neighboring farm six miles away.



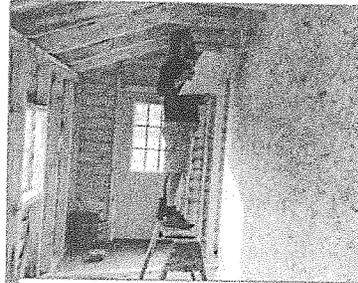
In Wadhams, NY, **Juniper Hill Farm** owner Adam Hainer has 30,000 pounds of organic butternut squash awaiting the new peeler he purchased with his grant funds. Once it is up and running, the peeler will allow farm staff to process squash for local schools much more quickly, increasing profits from this product through the winter months.





Asa Thomas-Train, co-owner of **Mace Chasm Farm** in Keeseville, NY, purchased a curing cabinet where butchers at the diversified

meat farm double the value of their fresh pork trim by making it into dry cured salami. In addition to increasing revenue, the new curing cabinet allows Mace Chasm to keep production going — and staff employed — through the less busy winter months.



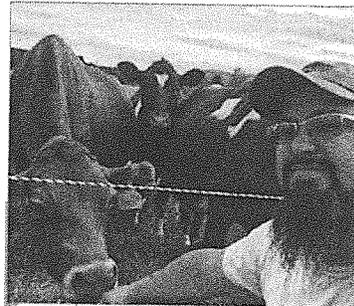
Liam Carney and Joana Vaz Sousa of **Peacock and Pony Farm** used grant funds to build an indoor

mushroom laboratory at their family's farm in Natural Bridge, NY. The new structure provides more space and the right conditions to grow more gourmet mushrooms, produce mushroom spawn and extend the growing season into the colder months.



Catherine Bennett, owner of **Milkweed Tussock Tubers** in Heuvelton, NY, is now a certified producer of disease-

free, organic seed potatoes. The grant-funded certification allows her to meet demand for her seed potatoes as she turns attention to reviving regional potato varieties.



Dan and Kim Rivera of **Triple Green Jade Farm** purchased cow milking equipment to establish a small dairy

on their farm in Willsboro, NY — providing a revenue stream to compliment their popular breads and crackers. Once the equipment is operational, the Riveras will sell the raw milk to area cheesemakers. Until then, the Triple Green Jade calves are happy to drink more of that rich, nutritious milk.

**North Branch Farms** owner Jay Canzonier used his grant award to replace the aging apple washing and packing equipment at his family's orchard in Henderson, NY. The equipment had been rapidly approaching its expiration date and was not safe to use. The new machinery safely turns out apples ready for Jay's customers — predominantly area schools.

# Responding to challenging times

In the first days of the COVID pandemic and economic shutdown, one of our member businesses told us, "We went from flourishing to floundering — in less than a week." ANCA staff immediately went to work to provide urgent support for the local businesses and farms that are the backbone of our economy.

During those first precarious weeks and every day since, we have been continually inspired by the resilience and ingenuity of North Country businesses and humbled to be working with so many of them.



*Photos (left to right): Businesses like The Bookstore Plus in Lake Placid and Pitney Meadows Community Farm in Saratoga Springs have demonstrated exceptional dedication and resilience in the face of the pandemic and shutdown.*

*"I appreciate what ANCA has done for my small business. In these times it goes without saying that we all needed help. When there was none to be found for me, you and your staff reached out to me. You have always been helpful."*

*~ Marcy Laramay, Lakeview Motel & Apartments, Massena, NY*

*"A special thank you to you and the ANCA group. We will never forget all that you did for us. After this long period of being closed I want you to know we will work very hard to recover. We need to honor your hard work."*

*~ Barbara Clark, The Palace Theatre, Lake Placid, NY*

# Thank You

Your investment in ANCA is helping create and sustain wealth and value in North Country communities. We are deeply grateful to the people, businesses and organizations who are investing in our region's New Economy through ANCA membership, the New Economy Fund, event sponsorship and program support. Thank you.

## People

Anonymous	Donald Caldera	Philip and Kathleen Forlenza
Mary Elizabeth Alexander	Paul Cantwell, Jr.	Andrew and Ruth Fortune, Jr.
Robert Andrews and Margaret Wilson	Karen Cappello	Luther Fresn
Michelle Armstrong	Teresa Cheetham-Palen	Joel Friedman
Joshua Bakelaar	Kelly and Brian Chezum	Myriam and Roger Friedman
Dr. and Mrs. C. Wayne Bardin	Lizbeth Clark	Glen Gagnier
Mary Bardis	Laura and Spencer Coffin	Hannah Gibbons-Arthur
Nancie Battaglia	Kathleen and Doug Colson	Keith Giles
Geraldine Bebernitz	Sean Connin and Elizabeth Whalen	Peter and Aliette Goldmark, Jr.
Scott Benjamin	Susan Crossett	Bunny Goodwin
John Bingham and Kathryn Preston	Richard Daly	Carol Haddad
Stephen Bird	Barbara and Martin Davidson	Mrs. Terry Harden
Lynn and Terry Birdsong	James and Caroline Dawson	Sally Hart
Trudy and Ethan Bixby	Erin DeCurtis	Adrienne and Mark Hartman
Hannah Blake	Stephen DeHond	Steven Hartnett
Bill and Judy Borzilleri	John and Anita Deming	Catherine and Taylor Haskins
Albert Bostwick	Susie Divine	John and Marilyn Heimerdinger
Kimberley Bouchard	Cathy Dove	Carl Hoffman and Betsy Naumburg
Michael Bowers	Victoria Duley	Mary Ann Hoyt
Kevin and Teresa Brady	Craig and Gina Dumond	Chris Hunsinger
John Braico	Earl Dunckel	Jane Johngren
David M. Brill	Stephen Erman and Margot Gold	Georgia Jones
Anthony and Martha Brown	John and Margot Ernst	Robert Kafin
Dale Brown	Richard Evans	Brian Kelahan
David Brunner and Rhonda Butler	William Farber	John Kiechle
Richard L. Burns	Kate Fish	Nancy and Richard LaBombard
	Margo Fish	Ronald Larsen
	Peter and Diane Fish	Mary Jane Lasher
	Sam Fisk and Linda Coe	Mark Lawler

BLUE = New Economy Fund | GREEN = Local Farm Challenge

*This list includes members, donors, sponsors and partners who made contributions between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. If you or your business is missing or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know, so we can update the listing. Please contact Caitlin Wargo at (518) 891-6200 or [cwargo@adironack.org](mailto:cwargo@adironack.org).*

## People

*continued from previous page...*

Michele Ledoux	Marijke Ormel	Kevin Stack
Melinda L. Little	Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Paine Jr.	Joseph Steiniger
Ariel Lynch	Jennifer Perry	Jeanne Stopyro
Beth Maher	John Persch	Sandra Strader
Katie Malinowski	Kevin Phillips	Dan Sullivan
Steve and Andrea Maikowski	Colin Powers	Heather Sullivan-Catlin
Henry Mannix	Frank Przybycien, P.E.	James Thatcher
Daniel Mason	Stephanie Ratcliffe	Mary Thill
Dave Mason and Jim Herman	Harold and Alice Recore	Sarah and Bob Underhill
Lawrence Master	Elizabeth and Lawrence Reid	Jack and Brenda Valentine
Charles and Anne McAlpin	Paul and Rosemary Reiss	Chattie Van Wert
Charles McCutchen	Denise Rempe	Caitlin Wargo
Robin McClellan	Scott and Bobbi Renderer	Mary Jane Watson
Frank McClenegen	Rose Rivezzi	Craig and Connie Weatherup
Patrick and Hilary McDonald	Rogers-Carroll Family Foundation	Robert Weber
W. Scott and Catherine McGraw	Joan and William Roth	Susan and Mark Webster
Francis Mettrick	Brian and Ginny Ruder	Charles Svenson
Suzanne Miller	Marty and Kirsten Ruglis	Doug Welch and Ginger Storey Welch
Philip and Susan Moldenhauer	Nicholas and Kim Russell	Liz Donavon Weyand
Jon Montan, Jr.	Mark T. Ryan	William and Mary Janeway
Nancy Morrill	Anne Farkas and Robert Scavo	Brooke Waldman
Christopher Morris	Christine Schrauth	Jessica Wegrzyn
Patricia Mullen and Mike Webb	Audrey and Ezra Schwartzberg	Cris Winters
Lynne Murphy	Harris Semegram	David and Holly Wolff
Gail Murray	Mary and Howard Silverstein	Gerold Wunderlich
Nancy Muskin	Laurel and Michael Skarbinski	Aaron Woolf
T. Michael and Nancy Nugent	Angela M. Smith	Fran Yardley
	Edward Smoke	Lindsay L. Yost
	James and Marcie Sonneborn	

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## Organizations

Anonymous	Adirondack Chapter Nature Conservancy	Adirondack Foundation - Paine Family Fund
Abanakee Studios	Adirondack Economic Development Corporation	Adirondack Gateway Business Association
Acorn Designs	Adirondack Etching LLC	Adirondack Gateway, Inc.
Active Solar Development	Adirondack Explorer	Adirondack Health
Adirondack Artisans on Main	Adirondack Foundation - Ernst Family Fund	Adirondack Health Institute, Inc.
Adirondack Bank	Adirondack Foundation - Generous Acts Fund	Adirondack Landowners Association
		Adirondack Noodle Company

Adirondack Research, LLC	CAP-21	Genuine ADK, Inc.
Adirondack Rockware, Peter Shrope Studio	Central Adirondack Association	Glens Falls National Bank
AES Northeast, PLLC	Champlain National Bank	Hayfield Quality Tours
Agbotic	Charlie Johns Store and Speculator Department Store	Healthy Gourmet Kitchen
Akwasne Housing Authority	Clarkson University	Hex and Hop
Alpine Images Photography	Community Bank, NA	Historic Saranac Lake
AuSable River Two Fly Shop, Inc.	Compass Printing	Housing Assistance Program Essex County
Azure Mountain Power Company	Cornerstone Energy Services, LLC	Innovative Natural Resource Solutions
Beardsley Architects and Engineers	Creations by DM	International Maple Museum Centre
Benesch Creative Enterprises	Curran Renewable Energy, LLC	International Paper
Betty's Funny Farm	Down to Earth Jewelry	Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Bird's Marine and Real Estate	Empire State Forest Products Association, Inc.	Lamplight Inn Bed and Breakfast
Bionique Testing Laboratories	Empire State Forestry Foundation, Inc.	Lump's Spice Company
Blue Pepper Farm	Franklin County IDA	
Boralex Hydro Operations, Inc.		

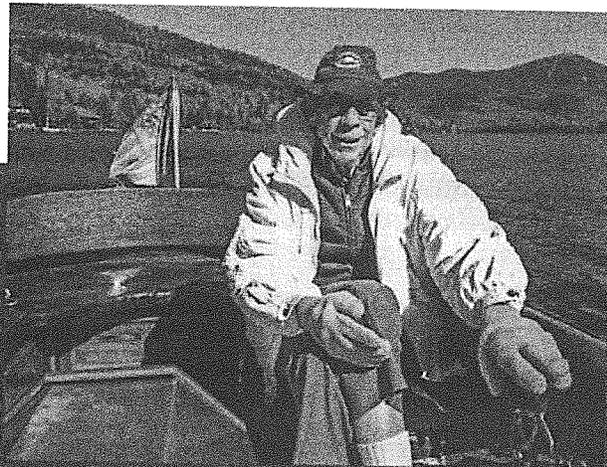
BLUE = New Economy Fund | GREEN = Local Farm Challenge

## Remembering Charles McCutchen

**In September 2020, ANCA lost a dear friend and supporter, Dr. Charles Walter McCutchen.**

He was a physicist whose wide range of scientific studies and interests included aerodynamics, joint lubrication and scientific fraud. He published numerous research papers over his entire working career which continued until his death.

ANCA got to know him as he spent summers at his family camp on Lake Placid. His stories, his local knowledge, and his understanding of the physics of the natural world provided important context for our goals. The support from his foundation provided valuable assistance to ANCA's work.



*Photo by Curt Stigger*

For over 35 years Dr. McCutchen worked for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Maryland. He also managed the McCutchen Family Foundation, which was begun by his family in 1956.

Dr. McCutchen leaves behind many devoted friends and colleagues. He will be dearly missed by ANCA and by Kate Fish in particular.

## Organizations

*continued from previous page...*

Maple Mountain New York, LLC  
Moon Valley Farm  
Moonstone Farm and Forest  
Mountain Orthotic and  
Prosthetic Services  
Murray's Fools Distilling Co.  
National Grid  
Nature's Storehouse  
Nori's Village Market  
NBT Bank, NA  
North Country Creamery  
North Country Food Lab, LLC  
New York Hemp Company  
Open Space Institute,  
Klipper Family Fund  
P-2's Irish Pub  
Parker Family Maple Farm, LLC

Potsdam Food Co-op  
Raquette Lake  
Preservation Foundation  
ReEnergy Holdings, LLC  
Rice Furniture  
Roosevelt Grooming Company  
ROOST  
Sacandaga Station  
SallyeAnder, Inc.  
Saratoga Chocolate Company  
Saratoga Springs City Center  
Seven Flowers of Luxury  
Shady Grove Farm and  
Wellness Center  
Share A Bear Inc  
Silver Bay General Store  
Stafford, Owens, Piller, Murnane,  
Kelleher & Trombley, PLLC  
Sterling Roots  
Stewart's Shops

Sun Creations and Skyline  
Tahawus Center  
The Birch Store  
The Bookstore Plus  
The Chazen Companies  
The Mustard Seed  
The Strand Theatre  
Triple Green Jade Farm  
Trudeau Institute, Inc.  
Tug Hill Commission  
View Arts Center  
Wells Central School  
Wild Center  
WillisKa  
Woodfield Press, LLC  
Workforce Development Institute  
Yellow Wood Associates

BLUE = New Economy Fund | GREEN = Local Farm Challenge



## Leading the CLCPA in the North Country

2019 Annual Meeting: The ANCA community gathered at Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake on September 20th to discuss New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act with guest speakers Amanda Lefton, New York State's First Assistant Secretary of Energy and the Environment, and Mark Lowery, Climate Policy Analyst for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Meeting attendees signed a poster to show solidarity with Climate March participants across the globe that day.

# Decarbonizing our transportation future

The idea for ON-RAMP — ANCA's inaugural clean transportation summit — emerged in the summer of 2019, when ANCA met with organizers of the 2023 World University Games to discuss transportation plans for the global event.

The virtual summit convened thought leaders from across New York State and Québec with the shared goal of making low-carbon transportation options more accessible, with supporting infrastructure in place throughout the Adirondack North Country for the 2023 Games and beyond.

“Let’s use the Games as an opportunity, a launchpad, not only to get these projects done in time, but also to spotlight them. Let’s showcase how all these things can be brought together in

a small rural community and share those long-term benefits with others,” said Ashley Walden, Adirondack Sports Council Project Director.

“Thank you to everybody at ANCA for the opportunity to participate and for all the work you’ve done to pull key stakeholders together.”

We are working with partners across the state and Québec to advance infrastructure development and create a holistic, region-wide transportation system that meets the rural transportation needs of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Stay tuned for information about a second ON-RAMP summit in 2021.

*“If we can make clean transportation more prominent in the North Country, what an incredible benefit that will be for the environment, the economy and for our residents.”*

~ New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, during ON-RAMP opening remarks



Photo: Rick Gorleski of PlugIn Stations Online installs a public-use electric vehicle charging station at the Hotel Saranac in August 2019. ANCA supported the Hotel in implementing its four-year clean energy and energy efficiency project, which was funded through NYSERDA's Cleaner Greener Communities program.

## Communities

Clinton County  
Essex County  
Franklin County  
Hamilton County

Herkimer County  
Lewis County  
Saratoga County  
Warren County  
Town of Dannemora  
Town of Elizabethtown

Town of Keene  
Town of Plattsburgh  
Town of Webb  
Village of Lake Placid  
Village of Tupper Lake

## Event Sponsors

Adirondack Bank  
Essex Farm Institute/  
Adirondack Council  
Adirondack Harvest

Adirondack Health  
Adirondack Land Trust  
AuSable Valley Grange  
Farmers Markets  
Clarkson University  
Cloudsplitter Foundation

Community Bank  
Long Run Wealth Advisors  
Northern Power & Light  
Premises Architecture

## In-kind Contributions

Bear Essentials Apparel  
Dak Bar  
Dandelion Farms  
Darwin Design  
Gear-to-Go Tandems  
Green Goat Maps  
Harmony Hills Farmstead  
Hex & Hop

High Peaks Cyclery  
Historic Saranac Lake  
Human Power Planet Earth  
Bicycle Shop  
Iron Rooster Farm  
John Brown Lives!  
Kate Mountain Farm  
LOCALadk Magazine  
Moonstone Farm and Forest  
Mountain Meadow Market  
North Country Public Radio

North Country Underground  
Railroad Historical Association  
and North Star Underground  
Railroad Museum  
Origin Coffee Company  
Roto-Rooter  
Sanctuary Farm  
Saranac Lake Rescue  
Six Nations Indian Museum  
Sunwarm Gardens  
Tucker Farms  
WPBS-TV



*In September 2019, ANCA's Bike the Barns gathered nearly 200 riders and supporters in Gabriels, NY for the fourth annual farm-by-bike celebration. The event took riders to small farms in rural towns and brought to life the ambitions of local farmers and the history of their farming communities.*

# Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT

James L. Sonneborn, *Bousquet Holstein PLLC*

## VICE PRESIDENT

Kelly Chezum, *Clarkson University*

## TREASURER

J. Daniel Mohr, *Adirondack Bank*

## SECRETARY

Katie Malinowski, *Tug Hill Commission*

## CAPITAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

John Bartow, *Empire Forest Products Association*

## NORTH COUNTRY REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Brendan Owens, *Stafford Owens, PLLC*

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- Rob Bloom, *Carthage Area Hospital*  
Steven Cacchio, *Champlain National Bank*  
Brittany Davis, *Lewis County Economic Development*  
Victoria Duley, *Adirondack Economic Development Corporation*  
Lee Evans, *US Light Energy*  
William Farber, *Hamilton County Board of Supervisors*  
Phil Giltner, *NY Senate*  
Courtney Grimes-Sutton, *Mace Chasm Farm*  
David Heidecorn, *L Catterton Real Estate*  
Michele Ledoux, *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County*  
Patrick McDonald, *Carbon Natural Gas Company*  
Stephanie Ratcliffe, *The Wild Center*  
Alice Recore, *Mountain Lake PBS*  
Kevin Richardson, *Agbotic, Inc.*  
Brian Ruder, *Skylight Partners Inc.*  
Nick Russell, *Community Bank, N.A.*  
Noah Shaw, *Hodgson Russ Attorneys LLP*  
Edward Smoke, *Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe*  
Ty A. Stone, PhD, *Jefferson Community College*  
Aaron Woolf, *Mosaic Films Inc.*



## ANCA Staff

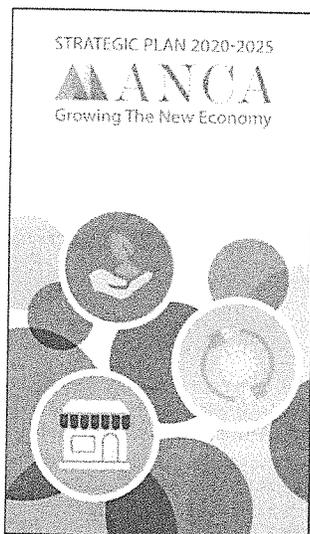
- Nancy Bernstein, *Energy Circuit Rider*  
Jerrod Bley, *Clean Energy Program Director*  
Danielle Delaini, *Business Transition Program Coordinator*  
Adam Dewbury, PhD, *Local Food System Coordinator*  
Kate Fish, *Executive Director*  
Brandy Hobson, *Director, Operations & Finance*  
Nancy LaBombard, *Staff Accountant*  
Jennifer Perry, *Sustainability Project Coordinator*  
Lauren Richard, *Artisan Programs Coordinator*  
Audrey Schwartzberg, *Communications Associate*  
Alexis Subra, *Membership & Events Coordinator*  
Caitlin Wargo, *Communications & Development Director*  
Benjamin Buck, Maura Maguire and Connor Smith,  
*2020 Graduate Fellows*

## Adirondack Diversity Initiative Staff

- David Epstein-HaLevi, PhD (ABD),  
*ScholarACTIVIST-in-Residence*  
Nicole Hylton-Patterson, PhD, *Director*  
Melanie Reding, *Administrative Manager*



Adirondack North Country Association  
67 Main Street, Suite 201 | Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
518.891.6200 | [www.adirondack.org](http://www.adirondack.org)



ANCA's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan lays out a roadmap for the systems-level changes needed to increase regional prosperity and help the economy work better for all of us. This work has never been more critical to the future of our communities. We are glad to be working with you as we implement this plan.

Read our new strategic plan at [bit.ly/ANCAStratPlan2020](https://bit.ly/ANCAStratPlan2020).

*Cover photo by Samuel Bailey: Azure Mountain Power's hydroelectric dam in St. Regis Falls, NY  
Layout & design: Aaron Hobson  
Report printing: Compass Printing on 100% recycled paper*

ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD  
ACTIVITY TIME LINE

County Status and Use of 2020 Appropriation and  
Proposed Use of 2021 Appropriation

Draft resolutions for approval by the Review Board. Prepare resolutions in final form.	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020
Prepare minutes of Review Board meetings and agendas for future meetings.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Mail approved resolutions to APA, DEC, all Adirondack counties, the Governor and state legislators	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Receive and review voluminous proposed state land Unit Management Plans and state land classification maps. Attend APA meetings and comment on the proposed Unit Management Plans, and proposed state land classifications.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Represent Adirondack local government on the New York State Forest Preserve Advisory Committee.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Report on information obtained at New York State Forest Preserve Advisory Committee meetings. Prepare positions and resolutions on Forest Preserve issues.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Participate on panels discussing Adirondack issues sponsored by the Adirondack Research Research Consortium, The Rockefeller Institute, Adirondack newspapers and statewide and local radio stations and regional and statewide TV stations, and Adirondack Not-for-Profit groups.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Attend meetings of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages Executive Committee and all member towns and participate in discussions of plans and programs.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Prepare the annual Review Board Budgets for the period April 2020 to March 31, 2021.	April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021.

Prepare the financial Annual Update Documents required by the New York State Comptroller and file with the Comptroller.	April, 2020 to March 31, 2021
Pay vendors and semi-monthly payroll.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
File required monthly reports with the New York State Retirement System and pay required Retirement System contributions.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Prepare annual budget requests and supporting documents requesting appropriations from Adirondack counties and towns, and	July 2020 to December 31, 2020

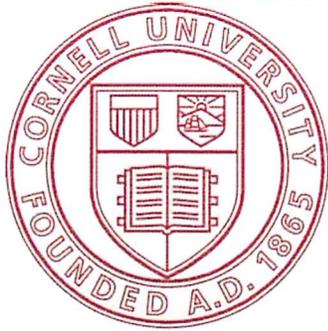
<p>New York State; Provide further supporting documents as requested. Meet with state legislators and county officials as needed regarding budget requests.</p>	
<p>Provide assistance to Adirondack Supervisors, Legislators and residents on matters pending before the APA.</p>	<p>January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Meet with the Governor's staff, Adirondack state legislators and their staffs regarding needed APA Act legislation and regulation amendments.</p>	<p>January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Prepare regular email reports on significant Adirondack issues and projects and send them to an email list of 200 Supervisors, legislators and interested parties several times each week.</p>	<p>January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Improve the Review Board website, which was created in 2005, by working with a consultant, and specifically to include a daily summary of newspaper and other media reports from throughout the Adirondacks as a service to Adirondack local governments.</p>	<p>January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Prepare and/or review and execute contracts with Adirondack counties.</p>	<p>November 2020 to February 2020</p>

<p>Prepare quarterly reports to the APA to support state funding requests paid on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>April 2020, July 2020, October 2020, January 2020, April 2020, July 2020, October 2020 and January 2021.</p>
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Respond to requests for information and recommendations on Adirondack issues from Adirondack State Legislators	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Provide information on Review Board positions on Adirondack issues to newspapers, radio and television stations.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Participate in interviews with local, regional and statewide news media on Adirondack issues.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
Provide testimony at New York State legislative hearings on the Adirondacks as the opportunity arises.	January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Work with the Adirondack Road Salt Initiative group and legislators that sponsored the Adirondack Road Salt Bill.	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

<p>Propose amendments to the State Land Master Plan to benefit Adirondack local governments and residents. Meet with APA and stakeholders to advocate for amendments.</p>	<p>January 2020 to December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Work on the planning committee for Adirondack Local Government Day Conferences at Adirondack local government officials. Participate in conference calls with speakers and presenters to arrange presentations. Canceled due to Covid</p>	<p>January 2020 to December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Work with Congresswoman Stefanik, DEC, the Adirondack Watershed Institute, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, the Adirondack Lakes Alliance and the Lake Champlain Basin Program on the Adirondack-wide invasive species prevention program.</p>	<p>January 2020 to December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Fact finding from Cell provider on obstacles to Cell Tower Placement, work with APA Commissioners, Elected State Officials, and others advocating for an updated Cell Tower Policy at the APA</p>	<p>January 2020 to December 31, 2020</p>
<p>Working with the Adirondack Diversity Initiative, asked to serve on Core Team of advisors.</p>	<p>January 2020 to December 31, 2020</p>

Gerald W. Delaney      Date  
 Executive Director



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Warren County



# 2020 Annual Report

## Message from Dr. James Seeley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County

### Adapting Programs To Meet The Needs of Warren County

2020 will go down in history as one of the most challenging years for all Americans. A major pandemic, an economic downturn, and civil unrest have affected all of us, and will continue to be a factor in our lives for some time. Despite these circumstances, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County rose to the challenge while others shut down. We chose to adapt our work environment, and kept on providing services to the people of Warren County and beyond. Our staff quickly versed themselves in virtual technology that converted our educational curriculum to an online-learning format. We were able to continue to offer our traditional programs, while creating new programs to help individuals and families make wise choices for themselves during these unprecedented times.



The following are just a few examples of the new interdisciplinary programs we created via online learning to meet the needs of Warren County residents.

**Food Sustainability/Food Security:** Starting Small-Scale Livestock Production, Family Gardening Webinar Series, Vegetable Gardening In Small Spaces, Container Gardening, Food Gardening For Beginners, School Garden Success webinar series, Wild Edibles -Three Part Series, Preserving Foods, and From Stream To Table.

**Nutrition/Health:** Plant-Based Diets, Dining with Diabetes, Outdoor Cooking, Live Weekly Cooking Series, Farm to Table Reading Partners program, weekly wellness tips created for the Southern Adirondack Library Systems social media account and Immune Boosting Video Recipes.

**Youth & Family Programs:** 4-H Town Hall Meetings, Agricultural Literacy Live Reading, Farm to Table Reading Partners, Wildlife Wednesdays and Forestry Fridays, Parenting Resource Line, and COVID-19 Financial Wellness Resources.

**Additional Programs Created To Aid Warren County Through The COVID-19 Crisis:**

- Organized the distribution of 4,000 cases of hand sanitizer and face

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Continued from front page.



*Hand sanitizer distribution.*

masks for the Capital District area. These supplies were provided by NYS Ag & Markets and were offered to area farmers and food processors, garden and nursery businesses, and area food pantries for **FREE!**

- **Budget Coaching Program** - A one-on-one program that will encourage and support individuals and family units in improving their financial well-being through identification of goals, savings, tracking income and benefits, paying bills, cash flow, debt, credit scores and reports, and choosing financial products and services. This program will be offered via in-person and zoom meetings.
- **Big Red Veggie Shed** - Produce from Extension gardens offered to individuals and families at little to no cost.

Respectfully yours,

*James A. Seeley*

Dr. James A. Seeley, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## Message form the Board President

This year has been challenging to say the least the COVID-19 pandemic sent us into a health crisis beyond what anyone could have imagined. However, even through a world health catastrophe our Extension staff rose to this challenge by continuing to provide quality programs using new virtual delivery methods.

Extension administration increased communication with our Board, County Supervisors, and the county public relations coordinator by providing weekly program updates and event offerings. This has kept our Board informed of the progress we have made and has resulted as regular contributors to the Warren County website and social media outlets.

We have been fortunate this year to continue with our primary grants, Farm to School, and Infrastructure Improvement. The new Training Center is 75% complete with only interior work remaining. The Commercial kitchen will enhance training opportunities for many nutrition, food safety, food preservation, and cooking classes.

Despite the COVID crisis, we were able to safely conduct our 11th Annual Golf Tournament. This is our largest fundraiser which raised over \$10,000. These funds will help sustain us in the coming year. It was a real team effort and I thank everyone who was involved.

Thanks go out to our supporters this year. Warren County has provided labor to help complete our Training Center and their allocation keeps our staff and programs running. Finally, thanks to all our volunteers that make our programs possible. Board members, Master Gardeners, 4-H, and VITA volunteers contribute thousands of hours to enhance our educational programs.

Moving forward we will follow our Strategic Plan making changes along the way as needed. Our primary goal continues to be to deliver educational programs to both adults and youth to allow them to grow and improve their lifestyle. Please join us in that mission.

*William Mason, Board President*



*William Mason, Board President*

**Mission: The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.**

This year the Master Gardener Program started with in-person trainings but due to COVID-19, we had to innovate and move trainings online using our new Master Gardener Moodle page and Zoom. We are still using an online platform to provide trainings and to be used for review and posting of new information. We have also been working on creating a blog to add to our Moodle site.

During the year we have had several classes taught online to the general public about gardening such as: Vegetable Gardening, Preparing your Garden for Winter, Container Gardening, Pollinator Gardening, and more. We also collaborated with the Lake George Library and SUNY Adirondack to provide programming on gardening and landscaping.

One thing that was fairly new to the Master Gardener program this year was participating in the Cornell trial gardens. The trial gardens included five beds that were grown from seed with a variety of plants including wildflowers, tomatoes, zucchini, beans, cucumbers, and lettuces. We then taste-tested and provided ratings and images.

To help raise funds for the Master Gardener program and 4-H a plant sale was held in the spring. We were able to do this by providing order forms to participants in advance and conducting timed pickups over two days. We only grew edible plants and sold out of almost everything in a short amount of time.

### Farm To School

This year the Farm to School Program delivered and organized gardening webinars, conference presentations, cafeteria taste tests, classroom instruction, and garden programs for 11 Warren and Washington County School Districts. Several new programs emerged despite the impacts of the COVID shutdown and challenges offering educational opportunities amidst a distanced learning environment.

- The Farm to School Coordinator developed and delivered a four-part gardening series targeted towards teaching families about how to grow their own food and the numerous activities that can be done with plants.
- More than 300 Grow Kits were organized and delivered to Warren County students at four school districts by the Farm to School Coordinator as a collaborative effort between the 4-H, Master Gardener, and Nutrition Programs. Grow Kits contained pea shoot and cucumber seed packets, recipes, and instructions for growing the seeds at home.
- The Farm to School Reading Buddies Program was developed for students to practice reading to the elderly as a service-learning project. Elderly Warren County assisted living and nursing home residents were provided videos of the children reading stories they chose about gardening and insects.
- The Seed to Salad program was a collaboration between the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of the Southern Adirondacks and the Village Green. This program walked youth and their mentors through the process of designing and planting a salad garden through hands-on instruction.



*Jessica Holmes, Master Gardener Program Coordinator*

- 35 Active CCE Master Gardeners
- 2,354 people participated in Master Gardening programs this year.
- 2,300 youth and adults educated from October 2019—September 2020.
- 1,480 students tried a Farm to School Harvest of the Month recipe at their school cafeteria.
- 62 instruction hours in classrooms and the community.



*Between North Country Ministry and the Big Red Veggie Shed we donated about 170 lbs. of produce from the educational gardens. The estimated value of the produce donated was around \$400. We received \$90 worth of donations via the Big Red Veggie Shed that will be used toward maintaining the gardens.*

## 4-H & Family Living



*John Bowe, Associate  
Team Leader*

- 10 youth participated in the Fair Superintendent Program.
- Several Town Hall Zooms were held to keep contact with as many youth as possible.
- Shooting Sports program started in October, paused from March until July, then returned to outside monthly range meetings in July.
- 130 youth, parents, and volunteers participated in the NYS 4-H Virtual Forestry 5-session event. Over 60 participants joined in each week and 45 completed the whole course, including seven from Warren County.
- 180 people participated in Wild Edibles Webinar Series as part of a collaboration between CCE Warren and CCE Franklin 4-H & Nutrition education.

While the 4-H and Family Living program was greatly impacted by physical distancing, our educators and staff developed innovative techniques that included Zoom, distanced face-to-face evaluations, additional PowerPoints, and the use of Kahoot a game-based learning platform.

Through Zoom and PowerPoints, the program kept up with the Rifle Team, ADK Guides, and the general membership offerings. The programs started out every other week, then moved to monthly when Zoom-haustion took hold of all the youth after months of online school classes. About 20 youth participated in the Town Hall sessions, including as presenters during co-host sessions where they gave us a tour of their rooms, showed us how to make paper crowns, or talked to us about how valuable their experience in 4-H has been to their success in college!

The 4-H staff, in partnership with the Fair Committee and Supervisor Andrea Hogan, made sure the Warren County Youth Fair was offered with a virtual twist. Projects were evaluated through physically distanced judging. The projects were then photographed by current 4-H members and Roxanne, Michele, and Amy developed a link on our website of all the exhibitors' entries. Ten superintendents worked over the course of two days to prepare for the fair.

4-H Shooting Sports and ADK Guides had already started in October 2019 and January respectively. These programs were the first to be re-established in-person, possibly the first statewide, when they returned in COVID-compliant experiential education. The ADK Guides missed their summer camping session, but had two practice sessions, a Map & Compass course, and the testing weekend was held in September.



*4-H Rifle Team at Dunham's Bay*

A staff member and several ADK Guides led the way in establishing a NYS 4-H Virtual Forestry series. The 5-part series was held every Saturday evening from May 9-June 6. The one-hour Zooms covered topics such as: tree identification, map & compass, tree pests & diseases, and forest ecology. Over 130 youth, parents, and volunteers registered for the event and the average attendance was over 60 per week.

The 4-H program also hosted two virtual competitions, one for Wild Bird Art and a Flower Photography competition open to adults and youth. The Wild Bird Art had 10 entries and the Flower Photography had 16 photos.



*From Adrianna Drindak, current National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador and recent NYS 4-H delegate selection to National 4-H Conference, "I don't know who I would be without 4-H. I would not be the same person . . . 4-H has brought me so many opportunities."*

Although our meeting year was cut short, we packed in a lot of fun and learning with our 4-H Adirondack Explorers at Big Cross. 4-H staff and volunteers provided programs that included fishing, hiking safety, wildlife of the Adirondacks, back yard birds, and nutrition education. The members of the club also made holiday cards for the homeless veterans' house in Glens Falls as a community service.



Roxanne Westcott, 4-H Family Living Educator



4-H Clubs in Warren County met in person until COVID-19. The County has four active clubs that range from community service, natural resources, crafts, and shooting sports orientation. The staff worked on a safety plan for resuming meetings in the fall that will be shared with club leaders at their annual training.

Raising a child can be stressful at any time, but raising a child during a crisis can become overwhelming. In June, our parenting educator created the Parenting Resource Line in response to the pandemic. The Parenting Resource Line offers parents support, tips, and resources through caring, confidential conversations. Parents needing assistance locating services such as parenting classes, domestic violence service, child care, or research-based information related to raising your child, can call or email.

In-person Parenting Apart classes seized in March but a new on-line zoom presentation video is available to parents wanting to take this program and offered at no cost. The parents are encouraged to view the videos within a one-week time frame and then schedule a follow-up phone conversation with the educator. This follow up conversation touches upon the "thinking points" in the video and serves to start a conversation about the important points in parenting in two separate households as well as to answer any questions.

A 5-week Community Parenting Program began on October 1st in collaboration with Washington County CCE. The program is based on Cornell's *Parenting Skills Workshop Series* and *Discipline Is Not A Dirty Word* and teaches basic parenting skills that are applicable to children from the toddler to teen years.

A new Family Budget Coaching program kicked off in August based on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's *Your Money, Your Goals* tool kit. Working with the VITA program volunteers, our family living educator trained coaches who are available to help community residents struggling to make ends meet, dealing with credit or debt issues, or just want to get a better handle on their finances. Coaching can be done in-person, one-on-one or via zoom.



- 37 parents have participated in the 6-hour Parenting Apart program.
- 13 parents are engaged in the 10-hour Community Parenting Program over the course of five weeks.
- 3 VITA volunteers have been trained as Family Budget Coaches.
- Over 10 calls have been fielded from the Parenting Resource Line. Calls ranged from dealing with temper tantrums, safety of summer camps during COVID and learning from home resources.
- 13 youth in third and fourth grades participated in the 4-H Adirondack Explorers Club which is privately funded by Richard & Judy Palmer.
- 48 youth participated in 4-H club meetings on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

*"I feel recharged after speaking with you. In a situation such as this it is easy to become discouraged and question everything. Your program is truly wonderful for those willing to embrace it. Thank you for the work you do for families and most importantly for the kids."*  
 ~ Parenting Apart Participant.

## Natural Resources



*Dan Carusone, 4-H Natural Resources Coordinator*

- 28 people participated in the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid workshop.
- 40 people participated From Stream to Table Webinar series on fish as a viable and inexpensive source of protein. Collaboration between sportfishing/ natural resources and nutrition.
- 19 people completed Game Of Logging Level I.
- 17 people completed Game Of Logging Level II.
- 20 people attended Silviculture, and Small Business Essentials for Loggers (NYLT classes)



The Natural Resources Program Coordinator has worked to bring programs that benefit forest owners, loggers, and interested home owners of Warren County, NY. These programs have included The Game Of Logging, Hemlock Wooley Adelgid (HWA), and Sport Fishing For Food. Also, two New York Logger Training classes were brought to Warren County. While this only directly benefitted a few people, it definitely strengthened ties between New York Logger Training and CCE Warren County.



*Learning how to sharpen a saw.*

This year, due to the pandemic, several programs, including Fishing and Hemlock Wooley Adelgid were offered by way of webinar.

The Hemlock Wooley Adelgid webinar was a culmination of several other events. First, on August 5th, 4-H youth Adrianna Drindak and I attended a "Train the trainer" refresher so that we could offer workshops on Hemlock Wooley Adelgid. On the 18th of August, I attended a Glen Island Stakeholders meeting to get a sense of the location and severity of the latest infestation (as well as to get a better idea of where and how to help). Lastly, the informational webinar that we conducted was a combined effort of one of our Adrianna Drindak and myself. We utilized materials from the New York State Hemlock Initiative. In this webinar we focused on the importance of hemlock trees (and how to recognize them), why the Wooley Adelgid is a threat and, how recognize and respond if there is an infestation.

The fishing for food (more formally know as From Stream To Table 1&2) were joint efforts between the Nutrition Educator and myself. These programs highlighted the different kinds of fish in the Warren County Waters, as well as where and how to catch them. Then, the nutrition Educator focused on how to prepare various kinds of fish, as well as how to preserve them. The intent was to focus on using wild caught fish as a resource to stretch the food budget. All Webinar offerings were recorded and are available on our website.

Lastly, despite some initial setbacks due to COVID, we were able to bring in Game Of Logging (levels 1&2) to benefit local foresters, loggers, and home owners. The Game Of Logging has long been the premier, most sought after chainsaw safety course. Thanks to a grant from International Paper, we were able to subsidize the cost of those workshops to further benefit Warren County logger, foresters, and home owners.



*Practicing cutting techniques in the Game Of Logging.*

The community nutrition educator has presented programs to countless residents throughout the county in a variety of locations -from public libraries, college campuses, churches, and farmers' markets, and to senior centers using hands-on, interactive cooking and teaching methods. Popular topics include Plant-Based Diets, Dining with Diabetes, Outdoor Cooking, Live Weekly Cooking Series, and Wild Edibles.

This year due to the pandemic to continue to provide programs to the residents of Warren County our nutrition educator created a series of cooking videos. These videos instructed participants on how to make simple, healthy, and inexpensive meals. Many of these recipes focused on products that are staples in the home. The video series is located on our website.

Our nutrition educator also conducted live "cooking parties." Participants would pre-register and be given a grocery list so that they could cook along with our instructor.

Nutrition and healthy living information were also distributed through social media sharing on Cornell Cooperative Extension sites and shared by libraries in the SALS system, and community organizations. Articles and recipes were also shared via local newspapers and website, and in peer-reviewed publications.

This year, our nutrition educator served as a speaker for the American Planning Association New York Upstate Chapter Annual Conference, Remaining Whole, Hopeful and Human Cornell Series, and NAE4HA professional development series.

Cornell Cooperative Extension was fortunate to have dietetic interns from the Sage Colleges and an intern from the SUNY Plattsburg RN to BSN program.

This year, our nutrition educator began a new collaboration with the Sustainable Ecology program at Cornell University, working as a community partner with students and faculty on a plant-rich diet program.

In 2020, our nutrition educator received three grants totaling \$12,000 totaling. These grant help CCE Warren provide education and materials to local youth, families, senior citizens, and disabled populations.

For more information about these programs, or to talk with educators from our nutrition and healthy living department to design the perfect lesson or lecture for your classroom, organization, or event, please contact the Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension office.



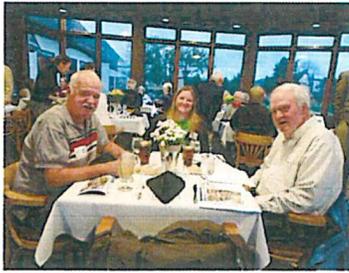
Marybeth Mitcham, Nutrition, Food Safety, & Healthy Living

- 10 people participated in weekly Cooking Parties.
- 180 people participated in weekly Nutrition Webinars on specific topics.
- 40 people participated From Stream to Table Webinar series on fish as a viable and inexpensive source of protein. Collaboration between sportfishing and nutrition.
- 70 people participated with Diabetes 5-part webinar series as part of a collaboration between CCE Warren, CCE Saratoga, and CCE Albany.
- 180 people participated in Wild Edibles Webinar Series as part of a collaboration between CCE Warren and CCE Franklin. Each one of the 3 informational and interactive sessions included information on identification, harvest, preparation, and how to cook wild edibles.



*"The live cooking parties are great! The recipes are easy to make and nutritious!" ~ Cooking Party Participant*

## Volunteers



**Volunteer Contributions to Cornell Cooperative Extension For All Program Areas**

**Programming for October 2019 - September 2020**

**Volunteer Hours 4,045.4**

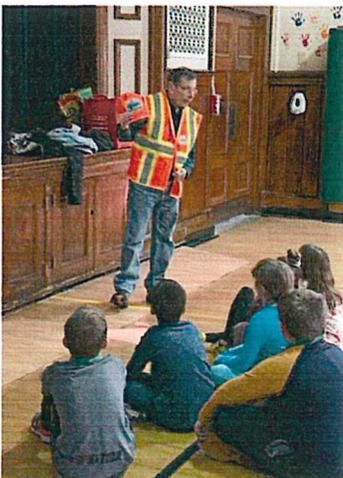
**Volunteer Value \$ 126,580.57**

**Non-Paid Intern Hours 916**

**In Kind - \$ 1,480**

**Fundraising Efforts \$ 11,600.00**

**Thank You!**



## Volunteering is Good for Your Mind and Body

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health.

**Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety.** The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being. Nothing relieves stress better than a meaningful connection to another person. Working with pets and other animals has also been shown to improve mood and reduce stress and anxiety.

**Volunteering combats depression.** Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against depression.

**Volunteering makes you happy.** By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers immense pleasure. Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel.

**Volunteering increases self-confidence.** You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

**Volunteering provides a sense of purpose.** Older adults, especially those who have retired or lost a spouse, can find new meaning and direction in their lives by helping others. Whatever your age or life situation, volunteering can help take your mind off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated, and add more zest to your life.

**Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.** Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not. Older volunteers tend to walk more, find it easier to cope with everyday tasks, are less likely to develop high blood pressure, and have better thinking skills. Volunteering can also lessen symptoms of chronic pain and reduce the risk of heart disease.

**Source: [helpguide.org](http://helpguide.org)**

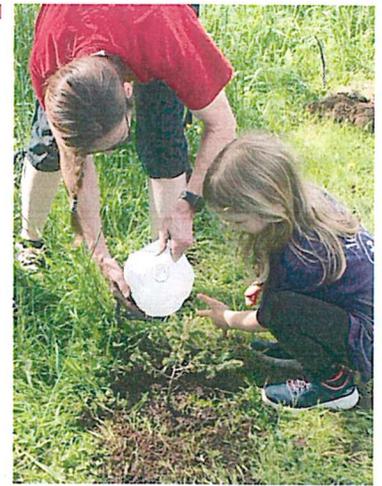


*Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. ~Author unknown*

4-H leaders support youth as they learn by doing by providing guidance and opportunities for meaningful leadership roles in their 4-H club and community.

What are the responsibilities of 4-H leaders?

- Develop a caring relationship with members.
- Create a safe environment for 4-H members.
- Provide opportunities for youth to build skills.
- Create opportunities for youth to value and practice service to others.
- Allow youth to make decisions and lead.



What qualifications/skills do 4-H leaders need?

- Sincere interest in the safety and well-being of youth.
- Desire to facilitate and motivate youth while nurturing self-esteem, decision-making skills, responsibility, and leadership.
- Successfully pass the volunteer training process.
- Ability to organize information and materials and delegate responsibility.
- Ability to work and communicate effectively both verbally and written.

Finally, you don't have to be an expert in a project topic to be a leader! By following the project resources, learning along with your members and involving others, there is no limit to the variety of 4-H clubs or projects you can run!

For more information on how to become a 4-H Leader contact Roxanne Westcott 518-623-3291.

## Volunteer Opportunity - Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener program is open to anyone who has an interest in expanding their gardening experience and knowledge. Learn how you can improve your own gardens and landscapes. Learn scientifically-based gardening information in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. It is a great way to learn even more by sharing information with fellow-Master Gardeners during the training, and following the training, by participating in community-based horticultural programs, educational projects and helping people in the community with their gardening questions. The Master Gardener Training Program is packed with information provided by the many scientists, educators, and garden experts associated with Cornell University. The course includes information about: botany; entomology; organic gardening; soil health; use of fertilizers; plant diseases; good flower, fruit and vegetable growing practices; and wildlife management.



For more information on how to become a Master Gardener call Jessica Holmes 518-623-3291.

Master Gardener Projects Include:

- Testing soil samples brought into the Cooperative Extension office.
- Working in Community Gardens.
- Maintaining Cooperative Extension gardening information files.
- Answering gardening questions phoned or e-mailed into the Cooperative Extension office.
- Arranging public workshops on wreath-making, gardening with perennials and other topics.



"It is very rewarding being a part of the CCE Master Gardener Program; I love meeting new people, and helping them with various gardening issues. The Warren County staff is the best – very knowledgeable – and I am thankful to be a part of this great volunteer program!"



For more information  
about VITA contact  
Amy Sabattis  
518-623-3291.

## Volunteer Opportunity - VITA

Do you like to help people? Are you looking for something to do during the long winter months? How about becoming a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) volunteer! The Tri-County United Way VITA Coalition in Washington, Warren, and Northern Saratoga Counties is seeking volunteers for the 2020 tax filing season. No experience is required; all volunteers will receive free instruction along with training and certification materials necessary to prepare basic tax returns. VITA volunteers are trained to assist moderate-low income individuals and families to electronically file their personal tax returns.

Training sessions begin in November and include the use of electronic filing software supplied by the IRS. We have tax sites throughout Warren, Washington, and Saratoga counties and volunteer hours are flexible day and/or evening hours in your local community.

For more information about the VITA program call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County at 518-623-3291 and ask for Amy Sabattis. You can also sign up through the Tri-County United Way at 518-793-3136 ask for JoAnna Sheridan. To volunteer in Washington County contact Joan Prouty at 518-746-2560. OR register through the United Way Volunteer Connection site - <https://volunteer.tricountyunitedway.org/> to become a VITA preparer, greeter, or scheduler.

## Volunteer Opportunity - Financial Budget Coach

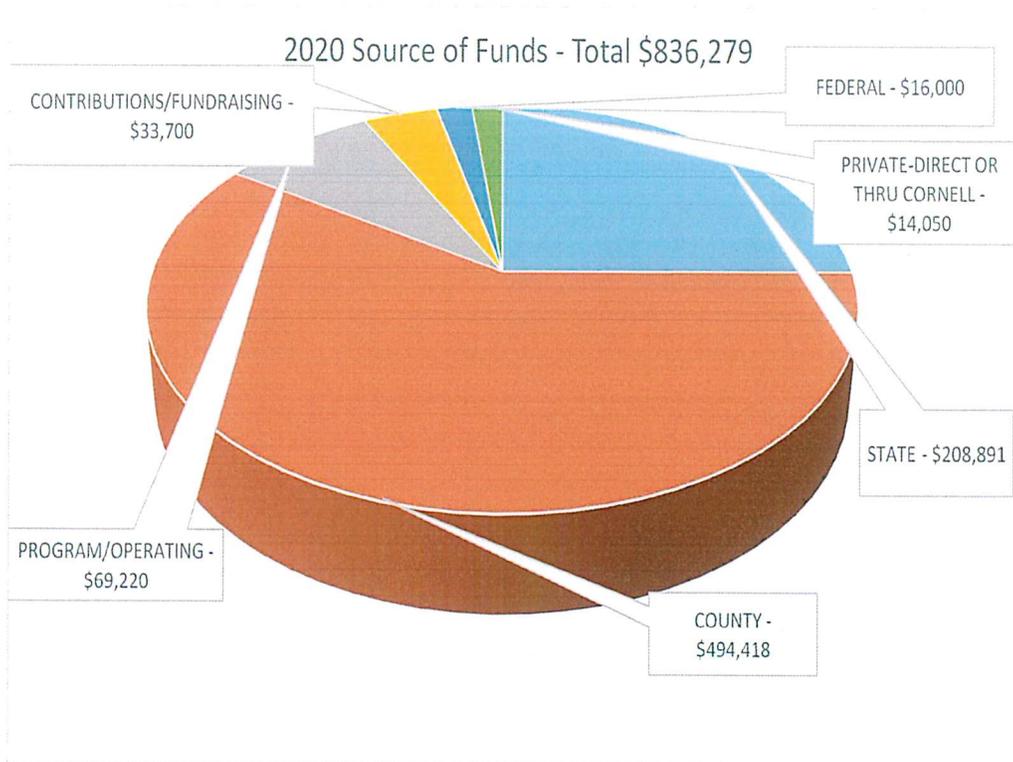
The Financial Budget Coach provides confidential one-on-one financial management education to individual and families.

### Responsibilities include:

- Work with assigned program participants in setting goals, organizing financial records, making a spending plan, stretching dollars, reducing debts, writing creditors and negotiating payments, creating a savings plan and/or other related topics. (The resources for these one-on-one sessions will be provided in training sessions and/or in a training manual.)
- Promptly bring to the attention of the Program Manager any needs you see for referral of program participants to other community agencies/resources.
- Show respect for the program participant's values/priorities and support networks as they relate to the importance of the financial situation.
- Develop the self-confidence of the program participants with whom you work. Allow them to become active participants in the education sessions by providing them with experiences in which they make decisions. Help them to recognize strengths that they have. Encourage them to build upon already established sound financial practices.
- Maintain records of visits and send them as noted to the Program Manager.
- Respect the confidentiality of the program participants and their information.

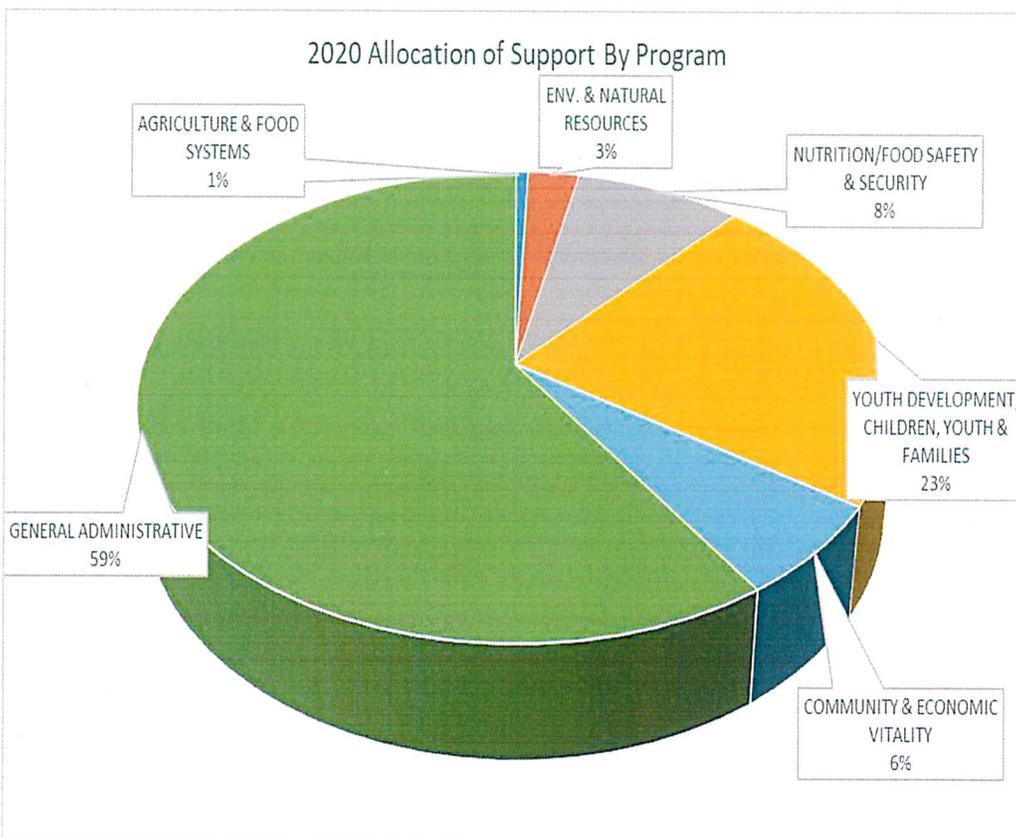


For more information  
on how to become a  
Budget Coach contact  
Roxanne Westcott  
518-623-3291.



**Why Cornell Cooperative is a Cost Efficient Organization:**

- Our 7 program educators work with over 10,000 residents each year (adults and youth).
- The associated County cost is roughly \$5.00 per client.
- CCE educates people that live, work, and spend their money in Warren County.
- Our employee benefits are paid by Cornell University, totaling \$306,801.
- CCE liability & unemployment insurance is separate from the County.
- Cornell’s educational programs are NY State certified and are not duplicated by other agencies.
- We partner with Agencies to provide programs. Examples: Warren County Court System - Parenting Apart, United Way - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
- Extension’s curriculum is research based from Cornell University and other Land Grant Universities.



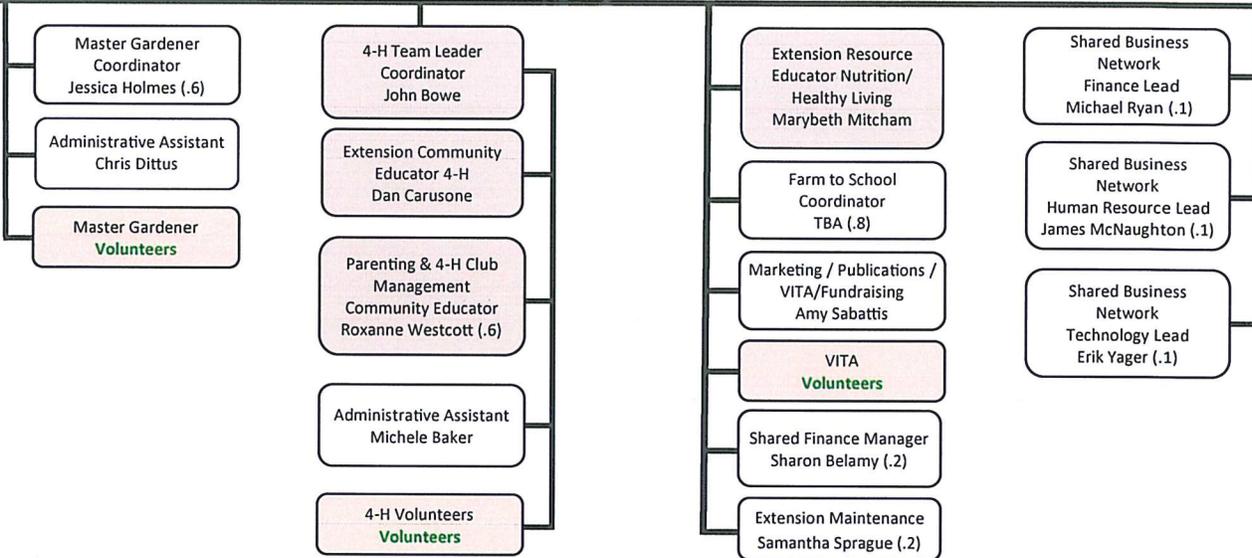
*With a presence in every county and New York City, CCE puts research into practice by providing high-value educational programs and university-based resources that help solve real-life problems.*

Staff Organizational Chart  
Cornell University Cooperative Extension  
of Warren County

October 2020

**Board of Directors**

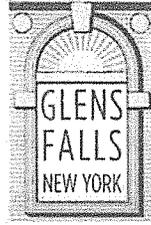
Executive Director  
Dr. James Seeley



**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County**

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Program effected</u>
James Seeley	Executive Director	Administration (Grant funded)
John Bowe	Team Coordinator	4-H Youth Leadership (Partially grant funded) (Shared w/Saratoga .2)
Roxanne Westcott	Subject Educator II (.6)	4-H & Family Living (Partially grant funded)
Dan Carusone	Subject Educator I	4-H & Natural Resources (Partially grant funded)
Marybeth Mitcham	Resource Educator	Nutrition/Healthy Living (Partially grant funded)
TBA	Farm to School Coordinator (.8)	Ag - Farm to School (Partially grant funded .8)
Jessica Holmes	Master Gardener Coordinator (.6)	Master Gardeners/Horticulture (Shared w/Saratoga .4)
Amy Sabattis	Public Affairs Liaison (.2 SBN Funded)	Marketing/Publications/VITA/ Fundraising
Michele Baker	Admin Assistant II	4-H Youth Development
Chris Dittus	Admin Assistant	Horticulture and VITA
Sharon Bellamy	Shared Finance Manager (.2)	Finance, Budget (Shared w/Saratoga .8)
Samantha Sprague	Maintenance (.2)	Buildings and Grounds

"Cornell Cooperative Extension actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity, or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, veteran status, or disability. Cornell Cooperative Extension is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity."



March 9, 2021

Warren County Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board  
1340 State Route 9  
Lake George, NY 12845

Re: Grant to City of Glens Falls for capital and operational expenses, Recreation Facilities

Dear Supervisors:

Please allow me to thank you for your continued support of the recreation facilities in the City of Glens Falls that benefit not only city residents, but folks from throughout the county and beyond.

This year was challenging with the ever-present risks of Covid-19 casting a shadow on everything we did. Because of the pandemic, the City didn't open its pool, didn't offer its summer camp, didn't host most of the events that normally would have been held in our parks such as the LARAC Festival, Taste of the North Country, the Adirondack Balloon Festival, etc.; didn't offer any of the usual programs at the Fire Road Recreation Center and ice rink, and didn't employ the usual temporary, seasonal workforce that we have in the past. Additionally, for a period of time during the spring and early summer, our DPW crews worked staggered shifts and as a result, weren't able to conduct some of the routine repair and maintenance activities in our parks that they normally would.

Consequently, the city did not expend the full amount of the \$99,000 grant you offered to us. We vouchered for approximately \$59,000 of the \$99,000 for which we were eligible.

Having said that, we were able to open Haviland's Cove beach and offer swimming options for park visitors who live in Warren County. We decided to limit it to county residents to slow the spread of the virus while still offering recreational options. We installed a "gatekeeper" at the entrance to the park and screened park visitors as they entered. This system worked well, and we will repeat it this summer of Covid conditions remain a concern. Our basketball courts at Crandall Park remained closed even after the courts were refurbished thanks to the Crandall Park Beautification Committee project. We anticipate opening them this year. The new Pickleball courts opened and were quite a draw for area pickleball enthusiasts.

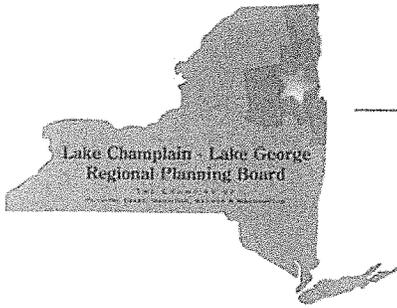
With the virus appearing to be on the wane and with vaccinations rolling forth, we are gearing up for a busy summer/fall season with our parks open and the usual events being scheduled, albeit at dates later into the summer and fall.

Please let me know if you have specific questions or desire additional information. This past year was highly unusual and thus, this report is sparse on details because it literally was the "year that wasn't," in terms of activity in our recreational facilities.

Again, thank you for your continued support. The residents of Glens Falls as well as the Mayor and Common Council appreciate greatly your help in keeping our recreation venues active and vibrant.

Best,

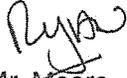
Michael J. Mender  
Assistant to the Mayor/Interim Recreation Superintendent



Beth Gilles, Director  
PO Box 765, Lake George, New York 12845  
Phone: (518) 668-5773 - Fax: (518) 668-5774  
Email: info@lclgrpb.org

March 26, 2021

Ryan Moore, Warren County Administrator  
Warren County  
1340 State Route 9  
Lake George, NY 12845-9803

  
Dear Mr. Moore,

Enclosed, please find the requested information on the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board’s 2020 activities. I have included our 2020 Annual Report and a summary of the activities we undertook more specific to Warren County.

As always, we greatly value our partnership with Warren County and look forward to our continued work in 2021. Should you or any members of the Board of Supervisors have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly.

Best,



Beth Gilles  
Director





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Beth Gilles, Director  
PO Box 765, Lake George, New York 12845  
Phone: (518) 668-5773 - Fax: (518) 668-5774  
Email: info@lclgrpb.org

## 2020 Summary of Activities

In 2020, the LCLGRPB accepted a \$400,000 EDA technical assistance grant funded through the CARES Act to complete an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan. This plan will outline strategies for implementation for moving forward as a more economically resilient region, as well as include a new Business Retention and Expansion Program.

The LCLGRPB also accepted a \$3.24M CARES Act grant to capitalize a new Revolving Loan Fund for businesses affected by the pandemic.

Specific projects in Warren County include:

### Small Business Assistance

- One COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Program working capital loan to Fun World Arcade in Lake George (\$150,000).
- One COVID-19 Business Interruption Micro-Loan to George Henry's Restaurant in Warrensburg (\$25,000).
- 20 current Small Business loans in Warren County.

### Environmental Planning

- Completed the Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan, which will be used to secure funding for water quality improvement projects within the Towns of Chester, Horicon, Johnsbury, Lake Luzerne, Queensbury, Stony Creek, Thurman, and Warrensburg and the City of Glens Falls. In total, the plan outlines over \$34M in water quality improvement funding needs in Warren County.
- Completed the Assessment of the Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George report.
- Began working on the Lake George Drinking Water Source Protection Program, as directed by NYS DEC.
- Authored updates to the Town and Village of Lake George Stormwater Management Program Plans.
- Member of the Warren County Climate Smart Task Force.
- Member of the Warren County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.

### Economic Development

- Completed 2 Intergovernmental reviews for the County.
- Working with the Town of Johnsbury on exploring federal funding avenues for a decentralized wastewater system and stormwater improvements at the Ski Bowl.
- Managing the Village of Lake George NBRC grant award for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Attended Warren County Economic Recovery Task Force meetings.





**2020 Annual Report**  
Lake Champlain - Lake George  
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

16  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
GRANT REVIEWS  
COMPLETE

21 GRANTS  
WRITTEN  
TOTALING  
\$8,500,000  
IN FUNDING  
REQUESTS

BY THE NUMBERS  
28 COMMUNITIES ASSISTED  
**-2020-**

TWO WATERSHED  
PLANS COMPLETED  
TWO ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
PLANS  
COMPLETED

\$4,500,000  
IN GRANT  
FUNDING  
SECURED FOR  
THE REGION

14 GRANTS  
ACTIVELY  
MANAGED ON  
BEHALF OF  
COUNTIES AND  
COMMUNITIES

36 SMALL  
BUSINESS LOANS  
PORTFOLIO WIDE  
TOTALING  
\$3.5 MILLION  
IN LOANED  
CAPITAL

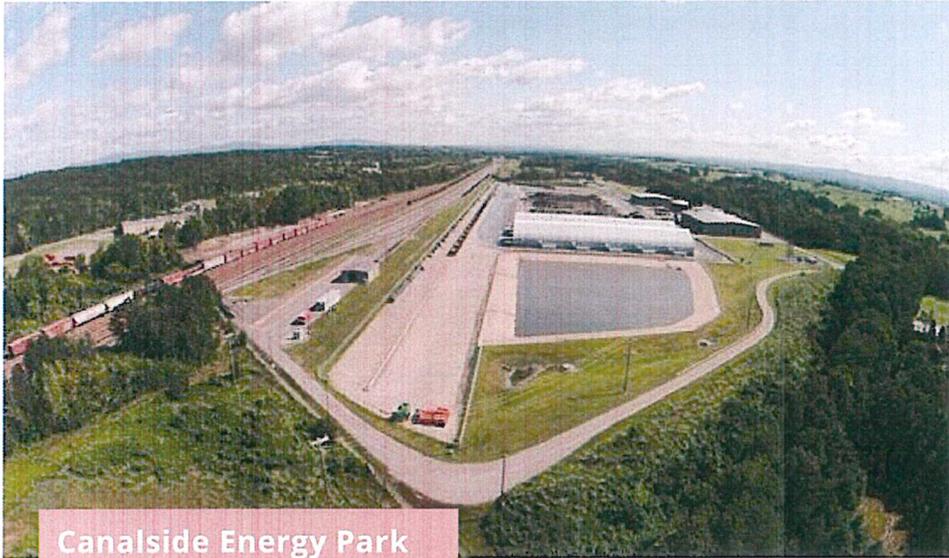
### A Message from the Director

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all our staff, partners and board members for their dedication to the Regional Planning Board over the past year. Although it was challenging, we were still able to provide the services to our counties and communities that we had planned for, while also accepting CARES Act grant funding to develop and deploy new projects and programs in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although our work is not yet complete, I think it's important to look back on our accomplishments, some of which are highlighted in this annual newsletter, to not only see the positive impacts they have made but to also provide fuel as we continue to move forward. As always, the Regional Planning Board is here to assist our communities in whatever challenges they may face, and we will continue to work for the betterment of the region that we all call home.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Best,

*Beth*



### Canalside Energy Park

In 2020, the LCLGRP worked with the Warren/Washington IDA and Washington County to secure two grants to help develop a new industrial park in Fort Edward, which is a federally designated Opportunity Zone. The LCLGRP authored a USDA Rural Business Development Grant that is paying for a feasibility study that will include a utility and infrastructure availability and needs analysis, a site and development analysis, a buildable area analysis and a market analysis.

The LCLGRP also helped the IDA secure a \$600,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to upgrade transportation infrastructure and begin engineering for expansion of the municipal wastewater system to the Park.



### Northern Borders Regional Commission

As part of the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) program, the LCLGRP is the designated Local Development District and grant administrator for grant recipients within Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. LCLGRP staff also assist municipalities in writing grant applications for the NBRC program, which focuses on public infrastructure upgrades, workforce development, tourism and small business development projects that improve the economic quality of the North Country.

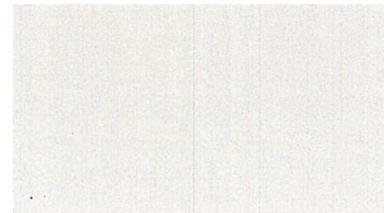
#### Current projects underway:

- Rouses Point Water Treatment Plant
- Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Town of Inlet Communications Tower
- Plattsburgh Water Treatment Plant
- Elizabethtown Trail Development

#### 2020 Awards:

- Town of Essex Water Treatment Plant
- North Country Community College Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Courses
- Warren/Washington IDA Canalside Energy Park Infrastructure Improvements

We look forward to working with new partners in 2021 to improve infrastructure, tourism, and workforce development in our region.



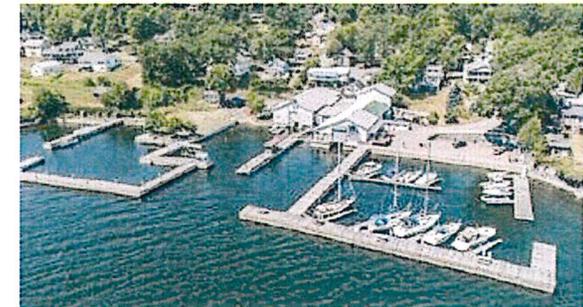
### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

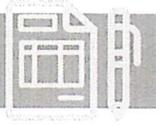
As the federally designated Economic Development District for Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, and Washington Counties, the LCLGRP is charged with maintaining a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which the Department of Commerce looks at as the "strategic blueprint for regional economic development." The LCLGRP is continuing work on migrating the current printed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to an online platform to make the information more widely available, understandable, and easier to update as changes occur in the regional economy. Be sure to keep checking our website for updates!

### Town of Essex Marine Base Complex Adaptive Use Feasibility Study

The LCLGRP was happy to respond to a request for assistance from the Town of Essex to complete a Phase 1 Adaptive Use Feasibility Study for three parcels located on the Lake Champlain shoreline. The Town was looking to identify the possibilities, opportunities, and constraints for the redevelopment of the property, focusing on the potential for economic, social, historical, and cultural improvements. The LCLGRP hired Ann Ruzow Holland and DCG Corplan to complete the study, which will be released in early 2021.

[Link to Town of Essex Marine Study](#)





### Assessment of the Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George

Lake George is a chief economic and natural asset in the Southern Adirondack Region, and it is no secret that the lake's superb water quality supports important economic indexes for the area including tourism, property values, and employment. To document these benefits, the LCLGRP was contracted by the Village of Lake George to complete a report focusing on the value that clean water in Lake George provides to the regional economy. The report

reviews existing literature on the topic and highlights four major water quality indicators that have been shown to impact the local economy: harmful algal blooms (HABs); contaminants and bacteria such as E-coli; aquatic invasive species; and residential septic systems. Additionally, the report highlights the benefits that clean water provides in terms of economic indicators such as property values; tourism; and public health.

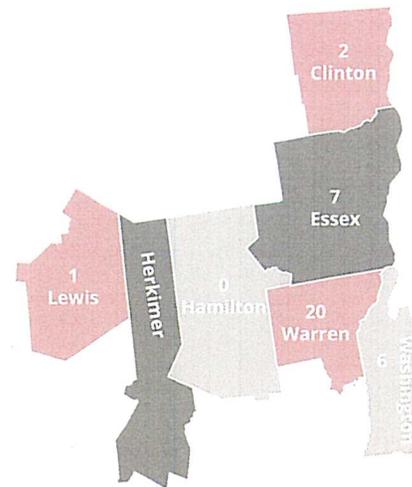
The findings of this report provide a strong correlation between a healthy lake and a healthy regional economy, showing that even minor reductions in water quality may lead to negative economic

consequences for the region. The report also provides an important narrative for the need to balance economic development with water quality and environmental protection because in our region, these are one in the same. The report was funded by the New York State Department of State as part of a grant to the Village of Lake George.

[Link to Assessment of Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George](#)



### Loan Program



In 2020, the LCLGRP had 36 loans portfolio wide totaling \$3.5 Million in loaned capital.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LCLGRP deployed a Business Interruption Micro-Loan Program to assist with working capital needs of economically injured businesses. Loans are up to \$25,000 and available through April 2021.

The LCLGRP is still accepting applications through its normal Small Business Loan Fund for business expansions, start-ups, equipment and inventory purchases, real estate, and working capital needs not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Link to Loan Program](#)

### Loan Administrative Committee

- Harry Booth, Washington County small business owner and former supervisor
- Carol Calabrese, Co-Director, Essex County IDA
- Chris Hay, President, Dannemora Federal Credit Union
- Marc Monahan, Vice-President, NBT Bank
- J. Chad Richards, Assistant Vice-President, Glens Falls National Bank
- Patty Waldron, Clinton County Legislator and small business owner
- Christy Wilt, Director, Hamilton County Economic Development and Hamilton County IDA



### COVID-19 Economic Recovery Planning Program

In June 2020, the LCLGRPB was the recipient of a \$400,000 CARES Act grant through the Economic Development Administration to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the North Country. Several new initiatives have begun since then, including the creation of a Regional Recovery and Resiliency Plan for the five-county region. The development of this plan is being led by LCLGRPB staff, The Chazen Companies and Camoin Associates, and a Work Group representing a wide range of public and private expertise throughout the five-county region. Slated for completion in September 2021, this plan will drive federal investment in the region to help the public and private sectors recover from the pandemic and build economic resilience for future disruptions to the regional economy.

#### Work Group Members include

- Michael Bittel, President, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Garry Douglas, President, North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Bill Farber, Chairman, Hamilton County Board of Supervisors
- Beth Gilles, Director, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board
- Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs, Adirondack Park Agency
- Renee McFarlin, Executive Director, Clinton County Industrial Development Agency
- Jim McKenna, CEO, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
- Liza Ochsendorf, Director, Warren County Employment and Training Administration
- Jody Olcott, Co-Director, Essex County Industrial Development Agency
- Laura Oswald, Director of Economic Development, Washington County
- Jim Siplon, President & CEO, Warren County Economic Development Corporation

The LCLGRPB is also creating a Business Retention and Expansion Program, focused on identifying the needs of small businesses throughout the North Country and developing new ways to address regional and localized needs.

The LCLGRPB has partnered with the North Country Chamber of Commerce to provide training to small businesses at no cost. It is imperative that we continue to provide support to businesses so that they may continue to function, stay open, and have a properly trained workforce. A total of 17 virtual trainings will be held in 2021.



### COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Loan Program

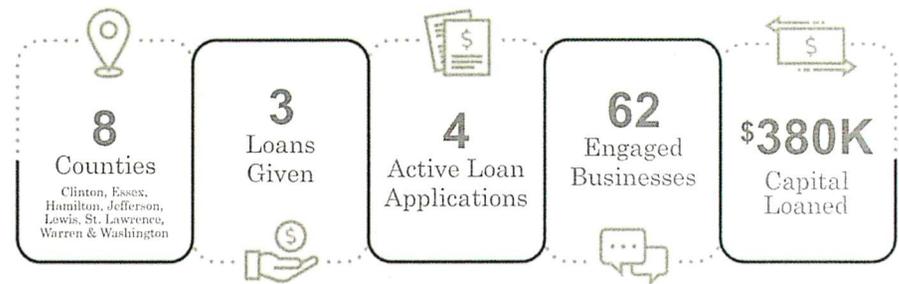
The US Department of Commerce announced on September 10th a \$3.2 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the LCLGRPB to capitalize and administer a low-interest loan program for coronavirus -impacted small businesses in the region. Speakers at the announcement included Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, NYS Assemblyman Dan Stec, Anthony Foti from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Warren County Board of Supervisors Chairman Frank Thomas, and LCLGRPB Director Beth Gilles.

This loan fund is aimed at helping small businesses within Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren and Washington Counties. Businesses can apply for loans for working capital, equipment purchases, or facility upgrades related to COVID-19 economic injury and social distancing requirements.

To assist in the deployment of this program, the LCLGRPB has partnered with the Essex, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County IDA's and the Washington County LDC. The program deadline is May 1, 2022 or until funds run out.



### Covid-19 Small Business Recovery Loan Program





### Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan

In March 2020, the LCLGRP released the completed Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan (Plan), which was funded through a NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization grant.

The Hudson River is one of the most culturally, economically, and ecologically important waterbodies in New York State. Over time, human activity - including industrialization, urbanization, and modification has placed significant pressure on the natural resources of the region. The plan takes stock of that pressure and identifies goals and projects that will improve the water quality within the Upper Hudson River Watershed under six priority issues: stormwater, invasive species, agriculture, erosion, water/wastewater and aquatic organism passage. This plan focuses on the seven counties, 97 municipalities, more than 7,000 miles of freshwater rivers and 229 significant ponds, lakes and reservoirs to evaluate the present conditions of the watershed, set a vision and goals for the future of the watershed, and identify 190 projects, totaling more than \$300,000,000 in water

quality improvements to aide in achieving those goals for the watershed. LCLGRP staff led the planning effort and completed the plan narrative, with assistance from the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC) and an advisory committee of local officials and water quality professionals.

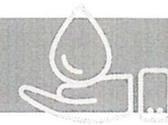
Preparation of the Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan was funded through a New York State Department of State Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant to the Town of Horicon and represents a regional approach to watershed planning that involves representatives from a wide geographical area.

You can find the Upper Hudson River Watershed Management Plan on our website.

[Link to Upper Hudson River Watershed Management Plan](#)



The Hudson River in the Town of Newcomb. Photo Courtesy of Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District.



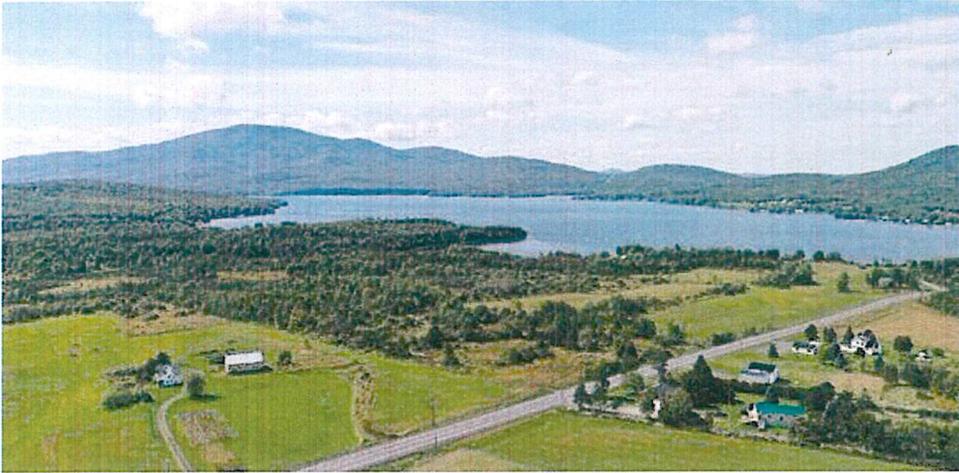
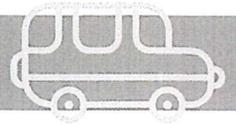
### Hudson River Watershed Alliance 2020 WaveMaker Award

The Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition, which the LCLGRP was a founding member, was awarded the Hudson River Watershed Alliance's 2020 Watershed Group WaveMaker Award for their work to improve the water quality and natural resources in the Upper Hudson River Watershed. The award was accepted remotely by LCLGRP Director Beth Gilles and livestreamed on June 23, 2020 during the Alliance's Toast to the Tribes event. You can see the award acceptance speech on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eurG21khYI>.



### Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

The LCLGRP has been designated as a technical assistance provider for DWSP2, a New York State sponsored program created to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. Under the DWSP2, technical assistance providers like the LCLGRP, work with municipalities to develop and implement their own unique protection plan for the source of their drinking water. The LCLGRP is currently working with the six communities (municipalities and homeowners associations) that utilize Lake George for drinking water to develop a unified plan to protect Lake George as a drinking water source for the future.



### Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan

In November of 2020, the LCLGRP completed the draft Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan. This watershed is comprised of 389 square miles of land in Clinton County, encompasses all or portions of ten towns and two villages, and includes some of the most intensively farmed land in New York State. The Great Chazy River and the Little Chazy River flow through this watershed, forming one of the major tributary systems to Lake Champlain.

The plan provides an overall view of the health of the watershed and defines goals and identifies actions to address water quality issues. Twenty-three projects are identified in the plan, totaling more than \$8,750,000 in funding needs in the watershed. Preparation of this plan was led by the LCLGRP with members of an Advisory Committee in collaboration with the watershed's elected officials with funding provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

[Link to Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan](#)

Photo: Lake Champlain overlooking farmland in the Isle La Motte watershed. Photo courtesy of Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District.



The Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council (A/GFTC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Warren County, Washington County and the Town of Moreau in northern Saratoga County. MPOs are required to be established in urbanized areas with populations that exceed 50,000 for those areas to receive federal highway and federal transit funding assistance for planning and capital programs. It is the responsibility of MPOs to conduct a comprehensive and coordinated regional transportation planning process to maximize local input and access to transportation programming and formulation of capital projects. The Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board is the designated Host Agency for A/GFTC.

#### 2020 A/GFTC Projects include:

**North Creek/Ski Bowl Connectivity Study**  
Assessment of potential access improvements associated with anticipated future development and existing operations between the Hamlet of North Creek and Ski Bowl Park in the Town of Johnsburg.

**Chestertown Pedestrian Access Improvement Study**  
Preparation of a conceptual plan for improving pedestrian access between the hamlet of Chestertown and the Chester-Horicon Health Center.

**Village of Greenwich Streetscape Code Revision**  
Identification of updates to the Village's zoning law to encourage development that enhances multimodal access, mixed land uses and parking efficiency.

**Town of Queensbury Active Signal Controller Technology Feasibility Study**  
To conduct a feasibility assessment of Active Signal Controller Technology (ASCT) for the Aviation Road and Quaker Road corridor.

**Regional Bicycle Plan**

**Bridge Preservation and Asset Management Plan Update**

**Traffic County Program**

## 2020 Board of Directors

### APPOINTED MEMBER

#### CLINTON COUNTY

Glen Cutter, Director of County Planning  
Francis Peryea, County Legislator  
Patty Waldron, County Legislator

#### ESSEX COUNTY

Joseph Giordano, Supervisor Ticonderoga  
Charles Harrington, Supervisor Crown Point  
Michael Tyler, Supervisor Westport

#### HAMILTON COUNTY

Clay Arsenaault, Supervisor Long Lake  
Steven Tomlinson, Supervisor Hope  
Christy Wilt, County Economic Development Director

#### WARREN COUNTY

Dennis Dickinson, Supervisor Lake George  
Edna Frasier, Supervisor Hague  
John Strough, Supervisor Queensbury

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

Robert Henke, Supervisor Argyle  
Matthew Hicks, Supervisor Granville  
David O'Brien, Supervisor Hampton

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Mark Henry, Chairman, Clinton County Legislature  
Kimberly Davis, Clinton County Treasurer  
Karl Weiss, Clinton County Highway Superintendent

Sean Gilliland, Chairman, Essex County Bd. Of Supervisors  
Michael Diskin, Essex County Treasurer  
Jim Dougan, Essex County Highway Superintendent

William Farber, Chairman, Hamilton Co. Bd. Of Supervisors  
Beth Hunt, Hamilton County Treasurer  
Tracy Eldridge, Hamilton County Highway Superintendent

Frank Thomas, Chairman, Warren County Bd. Of Supervisors  
Michael Swan, Warren County Treasurer  
Kevin Hajos, Warren County Highway Superintendent

Sam Hall, Chairman, Washington Co. Board of Supervisors  
Albert Nolette, Washington County Treasurer  
Deb Donohue, Washington County Highway Superintendent

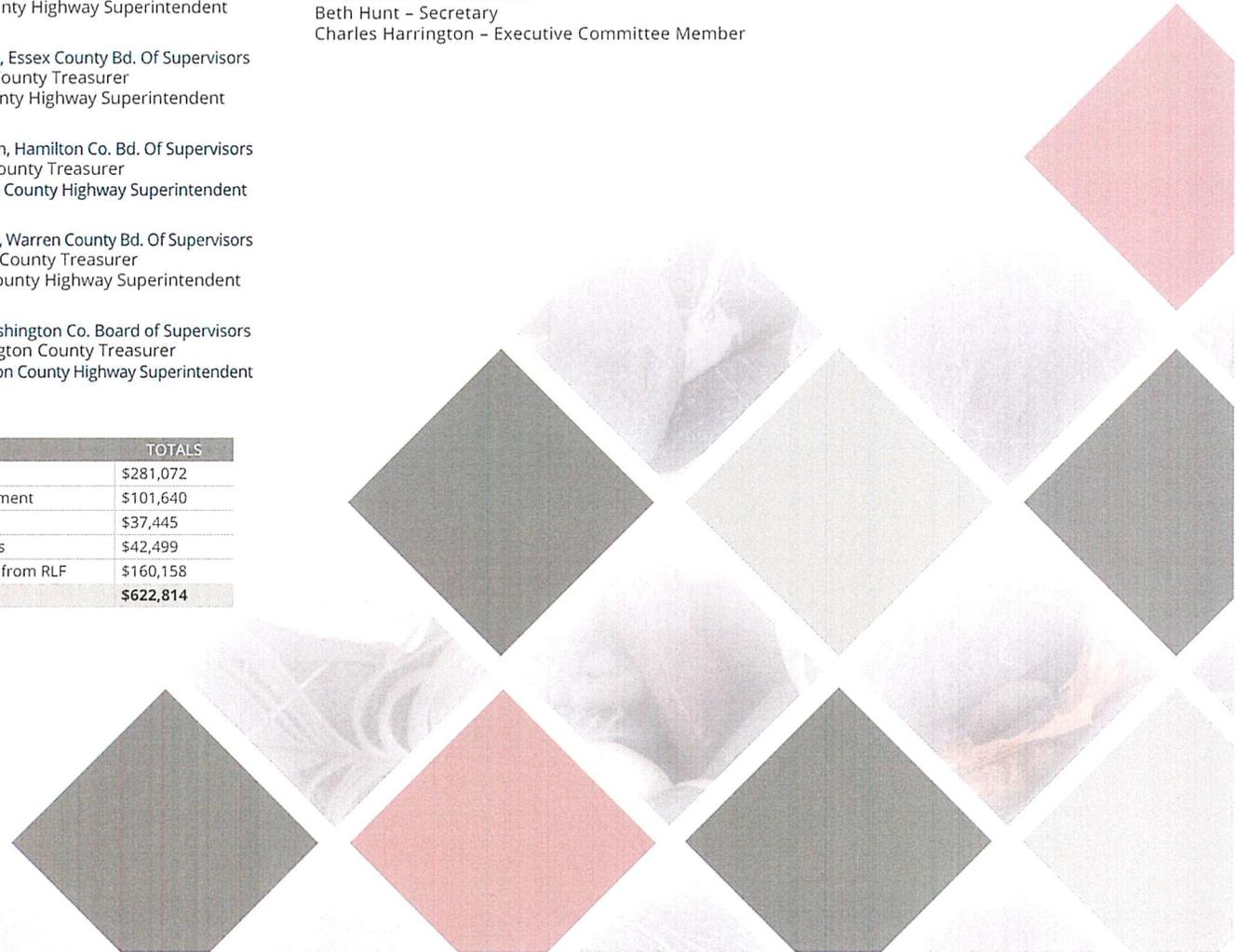
### OFFICERS

David O'Brien – Chair  
Christy Wilt – Vice-Chair  
Albert Nolette – Treasurer  
Beth Hunt – Secretary  
Charles Harrington – Executive Committee Member

## LCLGRP Financials: Fiscal Year 2020

EXPENSES:	TOTALS
Payroll Expenditures:	
Salaries and Wages	\$225,272
Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits	\$84,950
Total Payroll Expenditures	\$310,222
Operating Expenditures:	
Computer Equipment/Subscriptions	\$2,203
Contractual Services	\$23,250
Program Expenses	\$30,509
Special Grants	\$11,887
Printing and Supplies	\$3,714
Professional Fees	\$27,071
Rent	\$28,898
Telephone and Internet	\$5,998
Postage	\$849
Travel, Conferences, Dues and Meetings	\$3,598
Advertising	\$419
Total Operating Expenditures	\$138,396
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$448,618</b>

REVENUES:	TOTALS
Grants	\$281,072
Overhead Reimbursement	\$101,640
In-Kind	\$37,445
Sponsor Contributions	\$42,499
Administrative Reimb from RLF	\$160,158
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$622,814</b>



**LAKE CHAMPLAIN - LAKE GEORGE  
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

P.O. Box 765  
1 Lower Amherst Street  
Lake George, NY 12845



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT THAT  
STRENGTHEN & PRESERVES  
OUR COMMUNITIES.

## STAFF

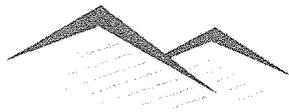
### **LAKE CHAMPLAIN - LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

Beth Gilles - Director  
Allison Gaddy - Senior Planner  
Chris Belden- Economic Development  
Coordinator  
Jamie White - Small Business Support  
Specialist  
Carrie Yakush - Senior Account Clerk  
P.O. Box 765  
1 Lower Amherst Street  
Lake George, NY 12845  
Phone: (518) 668-5773  
info@lclgrpb.org  
www.lclgrpb.org

### **ADIRONDACK/GLENS FALLS TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

Aaron Frankenfeld - Director  
Jack Mance - Senior Transportation Analyst  
11 South Street, Suite 203  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
Phone: (518) 223-0086  
info@agftc.org  
www.agftc.org

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.LCLGRPB.ORG](http://WWW.LCLGRPB.ORG)



SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

22 WHITNEY PLACE • SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK 12866-4596  
518.584.7300 • WWW.SALS.EDU

Ryan R. Moore, Warren County Administrator  
Office of the County Administrator  
Warren County Municipal Center  
1340 State Route 9  
Lake George, NY 12845-9803  
March 15, 2021

Dear Mr. Moore,

I am happy to report on how the public libraries and the Southern Adirondack Library System used the 2020 Warren County funding.

When libraries were ordered to shut their physical doors, the nine libraries still provided services to the residents of Warren County thanks to the Warren County Aid. The libraries provided e-books, audio-books, 24/7 access to WiFi, ability to get a library card online to borrow all e-content; virtual programs for all ages, notary services, printing services, curbside book pickups, and information services offered by phone or online.

The Southern Adirondack Library System disbursed all of the funding to the libraries as soon as it was received.

**Disbursement of Warren County aid 2020**

Library	County Funds
Town of Johnsbury	\$4,749
Town of Chester Public Library	\$4,975
Bolton Free Library	\$2,668
Brant Lake - Horicon Free Public Library	\$2,200
Warrensburg - Richards Library	\$5,621
Stony Creek Free Library	\$2,200
Rockwell Falls Library	\$3,178
Glens Falls--Crandall Public Library	\$26,400
Caldwell-Lake George Library	\$3,009
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

Some of the libraries reported:

**The Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls**

Crandall Public Library received \$26,400 from Warren County in 2020. The money was put towards general operating expenses that allowed the library to work around pandemic restrictions by offering Crandall Curbside reserve services and a mini-version of library activities through our Pop-In Library. Furthermore, some Warren County money was allocated to Children's Services for their virtual story times etc.

**Bolton Free Library**

This pandemic has caused many hardships and much anxiety. The Warren County aid helped the library to provide services throughout the year.

**Rockwell Falls Public Library**

People were very pleased when we began heading back into curbside service back in early July. Many patrons appreciated the fact they were able to reserve a book and physically come collect it. I think it meant a lot to them to be able to use their library card again in a traditional sense. Or at least the way they have become so accustomed. Saying that, many patrons who read predominately hard copy books were given the chance to learn about e-content and the technology that comes with using kindles and tablets. Some have continued using it. So, out of this came an opportunity for patrons to learn something new, which is always a positive.

**Warren County OverDrive (e-content platform) Usage 2020**

Library	2020 circulation	2019 circulation	%
Town of Johnsbury	2,067	2,086	-0.9%
Town of Chester Public Library	1,481	1,296	+14%
Bolton Free Library	2,230	2,238	-0.3%
Brant Lake - Horicon Free Public Library	643	589	+9%
Warrensburg - Richards Library	1,681	1,436	+17%
Stony Creek Free Library	343	235	+45%
Rockwell Falls Library	2,264	2,245	+0.8%
Glens Falls--Crandall Public Library	44,402	38,267	+16%
Caldwell-Lake George Library	1036	802	+30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56,147</b>	<b>47,758</b>	<b>+18%</b>

Sincerely,

Sara Dallas  
Director

When our library closed in 2020 one of the biggest negative impacts on our community was the lack of access to computer use and adequate connectivity. We are located in a large rural area and our community is comprised of a wide range of socio-economic levels. Internet and cell service is spotty, not available in all areas and even where it is available, speed of service can be so slow as to hamper effective use and is costly.

Members of the lower economic strata of our community often times cannot afford equipment much less internet service and depend on library equipment and connection to complete the ever growing demand for communication online and through e-mail required for tasks in their daily lives.

Thus, we have many people that rely on the Library for these services and instruction in their use. Many fell into the digital divide when the library closed due to the pandemic and these were not just people in the lower economic strata.

A further burden was placed on the public by the requirement of online submission of unemployment applications, mandatory online reporting of hours worked by many companies, request for medical appointments and so forth.

The Library offers 24 hour WIFI connectivity outside the Library but at that time the signal only reached as far as our parking lot. At the time of pandemic closing, the public was experiencing some problems connecting to our WIFI due to signal strength and the fact that the signal was not able to be received consistently, throughout the entire parking lot or to the entire circumference of the building. Users had to search the parking lot for a good connection spot and this could change from day to day.

County Funds enabled us, among other things, to purchase boosters which extended the power and range of our WIFI so that our patrons could receive connectivity in every area of the parking lot and on three of the four sides of our building.

We received many thanks for this. One gentleman needing to complete the continuing education course required to update his license as a surveyor, a course that required several days to complete and demanded verification of his attendance every half hour or so. His home computer was down due to weather and when it was repaired was moving so slow that it was impossible to complete the requirements from his home connection. So, he jumped in his car each day, with his laptop and his lunch and found he was able to finish his course using the Library's WIFI.

He was not the only one that benefited from the boosters. We had two real estate agents in the same situation as the surveyor and more than a few university students home because of COVID school closings, completing online courses or examination deadlines. We received many notes thanking the library for "saving their lives" by providing this service that would not have been possible without county funds.

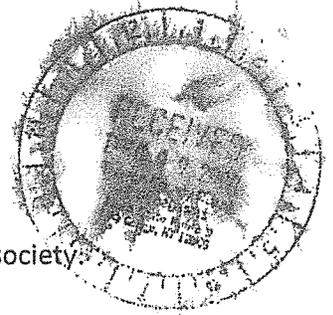
In addition there were those that came to the parking lot to stream a movie or talk to friends and relatives through online means. Many told us they were glad for the break from "quarantining in place",

and being able to carry on from their cars knowing they did not face exposure or worry about the danger of them unknowingly exposing someone else. These were the early days of the pandemic when it was not so clear how exposure could happen.

County funds also enabled us to purchase children's materials to augment virtual programs offered by the local school as well as supply educational materials to the traditional homeschooled population, which is quite large in this area. County funds also aided in covering the cost of sanitation materials required to operate in the COVID atmosphere a requirement that was proving to be quite costly. And, we are forever thankful to the County for providing further help by donating some of the items needed.

In short, County Aid helped us in providing for community welfare, recreation, peace of mind and well-being on all levels in a difficult and stressful time. We are ever grateful.

## WCHS Executive Director's 2020 Annual Report



2020 is a year we will never forget – as individuals, Americans, and as a historical society:

At the Warren County Historical Society, we faced down challenges we never thought we would encounter – a worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the destruction of our electronics and equipment from a tornado-caused lightning strike, and financial fears. I am proud to say we not only survived – but we are thriving. Our Officers, Trustees, staff, volunteers, members, and friends have rallied behind us to a spectacular degree during this challenging year and have allowed us to overcome adversity and achieve great things despite incredible obstacles.

The statewide covid-19 shutdown that began in mid-March led to the closure of our historical society and museum until August 1, when we re-opened with reduced hours. During the shutdown, our staff continued to work, taking turns coming into the building to abide by social distancing guidelines. When we were allowed to re-open in August in “Phase 4,” we were required to implement covid-safe protocols mandated by the County and state, train our staff in temperature-taking, required reporting, mask-wearing, disinfecting, and sanitization procedures. On October 1, we re-instituted our normal hours of operation, and have kept everyone safe as we fulfilled our mission to preserve and promote the history and heritage of Warren County in these uncertain times.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, a severe tornado and storm swept through Queensbury and Luzerne, causing a lightning strike that damaged the roof and attic beams of our beloved building and blew out all our computers, telephones, scanner, and alarm system. We are fortunate that the WCHS didn't burn down. With our Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan in full force, we embarked upon a period of several difficult months of repairing the damage and replacing equipment. There was much to do in terms of insurance claims, financial paperwork, County coordination, logistical challenges, and physical labor, and this kept us busy from June until November. I can't say enough great things about our Officers, Trustees, staff, volunteers, members, and friends who all helped us recover from that nightmare. We still have outstanding repairs to do on the roof and attic, and we still need an alarm system, but we are diligently working with the Buildings and Grounds Department at the County to complete these action items.

As Executive Director, I have led the above efforts as well as managing the administrative matters of the WCHS and overseeing the museum, collections and archives, book and gift shop, research and genealogy services, education and student internship, community outreach, public presentations, website development and updating, programs, publicity, social media, fundraising, and grant-writing.

Fundraising was difficult in this year of covid as the usual sources of revenue were depleted and our schedule of programs had to be cancelled. However, we held successful dining and Facebook fundraisers, earned competitive grants from Humanities New York and the Touba Family Foundation, and secured funding from Warren County and the Town of Queensbury.

We took a bold and expanded approach to our Annual Appeal, resulting in a dramatic increase in gifts (\$5,000 plus). We also had great boost in Book and Gift Shop income this year with the success of *El Lagarto* (by Jon Bowers) and *The Last Seamstress of Fowler's Mills* (which I authored), other popular local history titles, and the sale of historical prints/posters donated by members Marjory and Don Moeller. Our Book and Gift Shop is ever expanding with more and more history books and interesting history-themed merchandise.

Our museum and permanent exhibition, "Warren County 360: Celebrating Place and People," continue to attract visitors and be lauded around the region. Even during this year of the pandemic, since re-opening, we've had a steady stream of museum visitors. We have offered popular displays in our small gallery as well – most notably, "Women's Suffrage in Warren and Washington County," curated by Trustee Tisha Dolton and featuring suffrage dioramas by member Cindy Whitman. Next up will be a display about the history of surveying and antique surveying equipment, curated by the Hadley-Luzerne Historical Society.

In 2020, we completed our website enhancement project with the generous support of Mannix Marketing. Our new website - [wcnhyhs.org](http://wcnhyhs.org) – is an outstanding history extravaganza, complete with blogs about our collections; on-line membership, donation, and purchasing capability; interactive and research functions; and, publication of our long-popular *Rewind* history column. With our programs cancelled for the year, our new website was a superb way to stay connected to our members and the public. We intend to make expanded use of it in the coming year(s) to offer on-line programming and to stay engaged with our members and friends.

We are doing a better and better job of using social media to stay connected, promote our services and events, and provide research and historical assistance. We have an active presence on Facebook and on Twitter, both of which require an investment of time, to be sure, but the rewards are great.

We also provided the research and writing of "This Day in History Segments" for TV Channels 10 and 13 in Albany, and on local radio.

Of note this year, we created "The Honorable John D. Austin Contribution to History Award" in memory of our friend, the late Judge John Austin, who was also County Historian, esteemed local attorney, and founding member of the WCHS. This award will be the featured highlight of our Annual Meeting each year. The winner of the 2021 award is famous archeologist Dr. David Starbuck of Chestertown, nominated by members John and Chris Strough.

Stan and I continue to do lectures and presentations about the WCHS to the public whenever we are asked. This past year, these were mainly Zoom and Facebook Live events. We look forward to doing more in-person programs when the pandemic is over.

An important achievement of 2020 was the WCHS' efforts in researching and providing the requisite documentation to the United States Geological Survey in order to formally change the

name of “Halfway Creek” to “Halfway Brook” on all USGS maps. This was no easy undertaking, but we did it.

Our commitment to education and students remained strong during 2020 despite having to cancel our annual high school student debate last March due to the coronavirus. Education Chair Brady Stark formalized our student internship program and we are actively seeking student volunteers once again. Also, of particular significance, the WCHS partnered with Fort Ticonderoga to offer a series of on-line workshops for teachers as part of National History Day.

In keeping with our mission to advocate for regional history, the WCHS maintained a strong presence on the Lake George Reinterment Commission that is planning for the re-burial and commemoration (2023) of the remains of the Revolutionary War-era soldiers discovered in the Village in February 2019. We are also actively planning for the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Glens Falls native Charles Reed Bishop (founder of modern-day Hawaii) in 2022, and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution in 2025.

Perhaps the most exciting development of 2020 was the commencement of the “Joseph Warren House Visitors’ Museum” project – a joint endeavor of the WCHS and Lake George native Shane Newell. This creative heritage tourism goal to develop a premier, unique national historic site (to honor the man for whom our county is named) is an ambitious five-year plan for us. The WCHS is working actively with Shane Newell and the County to build a spectacular history and leadership campus here on Gurney Lane that will feature a Joseph Warren museum, library, theater, and gardens.

In conclusion, I want to say how fortunate I feel to have this job as your Executive Director. Having been a member of the WCHS almost since its inception, I am so proud to now be in a position to help the Society propel forward in meeting all its magnificent plans for the future. Recently, a colleague of mine said to me, “You’ve managed to get all the talented historians and volunteers at the Warren County Historical Society.” This is so true! At a time when (sadly) some of our sister historical museums are struggling, losing employees, and facing closure, our building is filled with dozens of high-caliber professionals and volunteers who are devoted to the work and mission of the WCHS. I am in awe of their dedication, talent, intelligence, enthusiasm, energy, and love for our lively and thriving historical society. We are growing in stature in the Warren County region with each passing year, making a name for ourselves as the place “Where History Meets the Future.”

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Podnorszki Rogers  
Executive Director

# 2020 Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

A Trailered Boat Inspection Program

## Final Report



**Lake George  
Park Commission**

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## Executive Summary

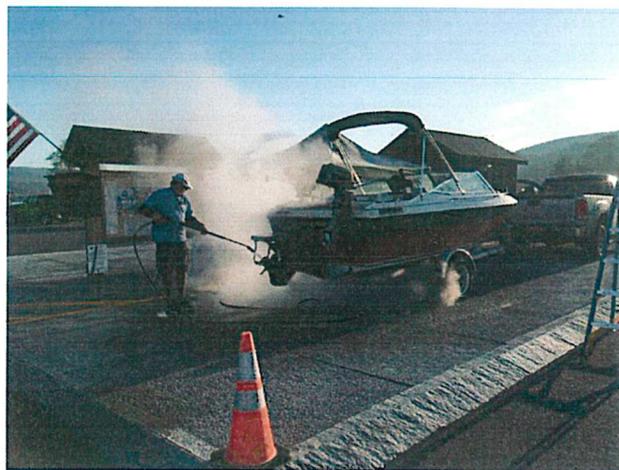
Seven years into the Commission's mandatory boat inspection program, no new aquatic invasive species have been discovered in Lake George.

This is perhaps the most important statement that can be made regarding this groundbreaking program that was created back in 2014, in response to recent introductions of two new invasive species (Asian clam in 2010 and Spiny waterflea in 2012). While this program is operated and administered by the Park Commission, it exists thanks to a remarkable partnership between State and local partners who fund 100% of the cost of the program, eliminating any cost to the boaters coming to Lake George.

With the advent of COVID-19, year 2020 was anything but normal for our Lake George community. The Commission's boat inspection program began three weeks later than usual this year, as safety protocols needed to be generated and equipment put in place. However, the Commission kept watch over the primary launches until the program could be initiated, and with the COVID public restrictions in place, very little boating activity occurred during the early weeks of May.

The 2020 boat inspection season on Lake George began on May 21<sup>st</sup> and operated through October 31<sup>st</sup>. While the season was shorter, it was still the busiest year the inspection program has seen since it began in 2014. During 2020, the boat inspection staff processed 37,150 boaters through the six regional inspection stations. Of that number, 10,638 received full entrance inspections, 15,049 received inspections while exiting Lake George (to ensure that no invasives from Lake George are exported to other waterbodies), and 11,463 boats arrived at the inspection stations with an inspection seal (mostly boats returning to Lake George after getting an exit seal). In short, it was the busiest boating year on record on Lake George.

In 2020 there were 171 boats that came to the LGPC's boat inspection stations that were contaminated with visible invasive species (primarily Eurasian watermilfoil, Zebra mussels and Water Chestnut), and these boats were cleaned prior to their launch into the lake. Seven of these 171 boats actually had two different invasive species on them during inspection.



Approximately 11.4 percent of boats receiving an inspection did not meet the "clean, drained, and dry" (CDD) standard of the program, and required decontamination prior to launch into Lake George. The boats not meeting the CDD standard are a risk to the lake, as water in bilges and motors can carry invasive species. We are always striving to educate boaters about the importance of bringing clean vessels to Lake George, and the goal is to reduce the number of decontaminations required by having people take steps on their own to ensure they are clean and ready to be launched.

As always, thanks go to Governor Cuomo for his continued support of this lake-saving program. We also thank our local partners who provide the other half of the cost of this program, including the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the Village of Lake George, the Towns of Bolton, Queensbury and Lake George, the Lake George Association, and the Fund for Lake George.

For a full overview of the program's creation, planning and logistics please refer to the Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan / Environmental Impact Statement on the Commission's website at [lgpc.ny.gov/lake-george-boat-inspections](https://lgpc.ny.gov/lake-george-boat-inspections).

**Table 1: Boat Inspection Program Summary - By the Numbers**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Total # of LGPC inspection sites	6	7	7	7	7	6	6	6
Total boater contacts (entrance, exit, returning with seal)	20,229	27,852	31,128	31,335	32,019	33,146	37,150	212,859
Full entrance inspections	10,351	10,247	10,506	10,869	10,617	9,223	10,638	72,451
Exit inspections	5,960	9,949	12,259	12,588	13,447	13,639	15,049	82,891
Returning boats with seals	3,918	7,656	8,363	7,878	7,955	10,280	11,463	57,513
Number of boats decontaminated	1,264	1,631	1,920	1,869	1,601	1,438	1,185	10,908
Highest total number of boater contacts in one week	1,703	1,949	2,375	2,287	2,692	2,598	2,774	N / A
Highest # of decons conducted in one week	118	148	163	182	148	133	109	N / A
Percentage of inspections requiring decontamination	12.0%	16.0%	18.0%	17.3%	15.0%	15.6%	11.1%	15.0%
Number of boats with visible plant matter present	232	154	127	244	328	287	315	1687
Number of boats with visible invasive species present	165	106	109	110	149	146	171	956
Percentage of boats with visible invasive species present	1.6%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%
Number of distinct waterbodies boaters came from prior to Lake George	457	432	477	449	N/A	390	379	N / A
Total number of staff at peak season	55	53	48	48	43	50	50	N / A
Total number of decontamination units	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Number of registered public and commercial launches on Lake George	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
Total cost of seasonal staff	\$548,078	\$482,443	\$434,858	\$441,162	\$422,846	\$467,907	\$429,216	\$3,226,511
Total program cost	\$668,537	\$596,486	\$546,914	\$555,883	\$539,587	\$574,460	\$550,049	\$4,031,919

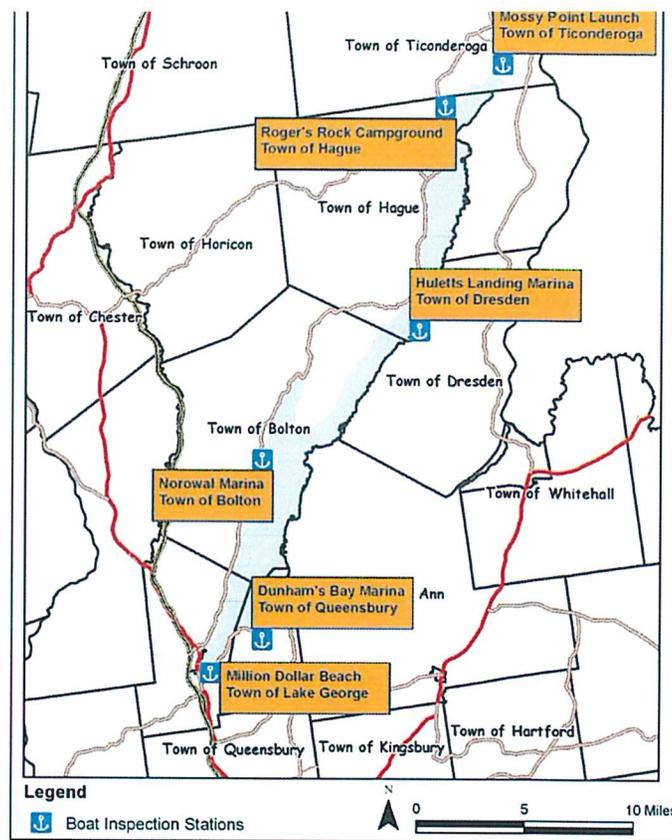
administered from May 1 through October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, at six regional inspection stations located around the lake in locations convenient to boaters. Decontamination of boats not meeting the required 'clean, drained, dry' standard is performed by using high pressure, hot water. No chemicals are used in the decontamination process. Inspection data is collected on paper logs and then uploaded electronically for review. Any visible plant or animal materials found during an inspection were collected and sent to the Lake George Association for identification.

This year, the Lake George Park Commission continued its partnership with the NYSDEC, Adirondack Watershed Institute, and other boat inspection programs in the use of the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA) database, created and managed by the NYS Natural Heritage Program. This application is used to collect the information recorded during the boat inspection process and store it for later processing and reporting. Using this program allowed the LGPC to easily share the data recorded on Lake George with other aquatic invasive species spread prevention program partners. The Commission also benefited by gaining access, at no cost, to a more powerful data collection and processing system than the simpler SNAP Mobile software we previously utilized for this program.

For more details on the inspection, decontamination and boat sealing processes, please refer to the "Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement" on the Commission website. ([lgpc.ny.gov/invasive-species-prevention](http://lgpc.ny.gov/invasive-species-prevention))

## [COVID-19 Impacts on Boat Inspection Operations](#)

In April, Commission staff was preparing to start the 2020 season just as COVID-19 was beginning to become a serious public health and safety issue. The Commission began sourcing personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, disinfectants, etc. in preparation for the inspection season. At the end of April, the Commission decided to delay the start of the Inspection Program until May 21<sup>st</sup>. This delay gave the Commission additional time to source signage and PPE, review and modify the operations of inspection stations, and develop health and safety protocols for inspection staff to follow. The Commission believed that the relatively low number of boaters visiting Lake George early in the season as well as the need to protect the public and inspection staff justified the minor delay to the start of the season.



Certain aspects of the 2020 boat inspection program were modified to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for both the public and inspection staff. Vessel registrations were not sold in person. Boaters were directed to the Commission webstore to purchase their registrations. Vessel sanitary inspections were not performed. Boaters were asked to stay in their vehicles unless instructed differently by inspection staff. Normally, boaters are asked to observe and participate in the inspection process to educate them on what they can do to reduce the risk of AIS spread.

The Commission spent roughly \$6,200 on COVID-19 related purchases. This includes PPE, sanitation equipment, outhouse and hand wash station rentals for all sites that were not for public use, and site signage. See Table 2 for detailed program expense information. Fortunately, there were no COVID-19 infections among the inspection staff. This is likely the result of enforcement of the Commission's health and safety protocols which included mask wearing, social distancing, frequent workplace and equipment sanitization, and reduced interactions with the boating public when possible.

## Inspection Site Staffing

All inspection stations were open 7 days a week during the peak boating season. Hours of operation were adjusted in the shoulder seasons (May 21<sup>st</sup> -June 28<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>) based on launch activity from 2014-2019, weather conditions, and local events such as fishing tournaments and regattas. As expected, Fridays through Sundays were the busiest days requiring at least three or more Inspectors on duty at most sites (Figure 5). The Commission continued to staff Mossy Point and the Million Dollar Beach sites in November, until Thanksgiving (the regulatory season ends November 1). These sites were staffed with a single inspector to perform visual inspections of vessels coming through the two DEC launches. Due to freezing temperatures, the decontamination equipment was not available for use. With the warmer weather in November, an increased number of boats launched in the first few weeks of November as compared with prior years.

The 2020 season saw modest wage increases for returning staff. These raises give returning staff an incentive to come back each year as well as help the Commission keep up with statewide minimum wage increases.

## Staffing Services Provider

Global Employment Services, Inc. (GES) continued to provide staffing and payroll services under contract this year for the Commission's boat inspection program. This firm is responsible for providing staffing of all Vessel Inspection Technician positions, liability and worker's compensation insurance. Commission staff works directly with GES management on the selection and hiring of program personnel. Operational oversight of all seasonal staff falls under the direction of the Commission's Operations Supervisor III and Trades Generalist. The Commission's contracted staffing provider is selected through an open competitive bidding process at the end of each contract period.

## Launch Management and Controls

There are three types of launches on Lake George: Public (State and Municipal), Commercial (marinas and motels), and Private (Home Owners Associations and individual homeowners). In total there are more than 80 locations on Lake George where a trailered boat can be launched, all of which require oversight and control. The Commission has executed Launch Agreements with each of these facilities to ensure compliance with the regulatory program. Each Launch Agreement requires the recording of all launches and retrievals of vessels, and the securing of the launch during off hours.

## Operations at DEC launches

Historically, Rogers Rock and Mossy Point state-owned launches on Lake George have been open to the public at all times. Million Dollar Beach is administered as a day-use site, and closes at night in the peak boating season. During the off hours when the Commission's inspection facilities were closed, boaters could demonstrate compliance with the regulations by signing into a launch register, removing their VICS and placing it into a secure lock-box provided at the inspection site. When inspection technicians arrived at the launch in the morning, the seals were recovered from the night drop box, and these seals were compared with the number of vessel trailers in the parking lot. Any discrepancies between seals and trailers in the lot were researched to ensure compliance.

Beginning after the Labor Day weekend, 2019, the DEC began closing gates installed at the Mossy Point and Roger's Rock launches in an effort to secure those launches and reduce the risk of AIS introduction by a watercraft launched without having been inspected. The Commission continued this practice in the 2020 season and worked with the DEC to come up with a schedule for Inspection Station operations at those sites to allow for early opening and later closing. This allowed for continued access to the lake while increasing launch security. This increase in hours of operations also increased total staffing costs.

In partnership with the lake protection groups, the Commission staffed the Mossy Point and Million Dollar Beach inspection stations until November 25<sup>th</sup> to provide additional spread prevention coverage. These two sites remain in use by the boating public until winter weather sets in. This extended staffing, beyond the regulated boating season, added \$8,827.25 to the total staffing expenses which was absorbed by existing program funding.

In total, 406 inspections were performed in November. Of those 406 vessels, 89 (21.9%) had inspection seals in place, 92 (22.7%) arrived needing inspection, and 225 (55.4%) were vessels exiting Lake George. See figure 7 for detailed information. This year's total number of inspections in November is higher compared to previous years, though it is difficult to make direct comparisons given weather variations year to year. These higher numbers are likely the result of unseasonably warm weather and a continuation of the increased traffic trend seen all season.



Radios, Cellphones, tablets, credit card terminals	\$7,155.54	\$2,125.69	\$573.83	\$437.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$422.00	\$10,714.82
Inspection site offices (1 in 2015 at MDB)	\$31,627.00	\$7,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,327.00
Secure Storage Unit Delivery/Set up	\$1,828.62	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,178.62
Covers for Landas (2 in 2014, 4 in 2015, 2 in 2019)	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,860.00	\$0.00	\$6,360.00
Cloud Setup for Data Reporting	\$251.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$251.27
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$297,733.33</b>	<b>\$14,860.79</b>	<b>\$573.83</b>	<b>\$492.76</b>	<b>\$425.00</b>	<b>\$3,117.00</b>	<b>\$672.00</b>	<b>\$317,874.71</b>
<b>Recurring Expenses</b>								
Wash Unit Maintenance & Misc. Parts	\$6,594.44	\$1,445.16	\$3,748.59	\$2,321.50	\$3,950.31	\$408.95	\$521.00	\$18,989.95
Training Facility Rental	\$1,093.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,093.48
Seals and Wire	\$12,212.40	\$3,094.00	\$10,494.45	\$5,663.00	\$6,625.00	\$8,346.00	\$8,856.35	\$55,291.20
Fuel & Truck Maintenance	\$4,983.56	\$3,621.70	\$3,000.47	\$2,794.52	\$2,317.55	\$2,155.69	\$1,708.59	\$20,582.08
Advertising/Rack Cards	\$2,077.14	\$1,285.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,420.00	\$4,038.00	\$1,188.00	\$10,008.14
Hardware/Supplies	\$8,028.29	\$865.51	\$1,248.76	\$5,241.47	\$2,797.81	\$2,131.95	\$3,814.43	\$24,128.22
Hulett's Landa Parking Rental	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,900.00	\$8,900.00	\$46,100.00
Uniforms	\$3,258.99	\$3,770.90	\$3,286.40	\$0.00	\$1,978.90	\$1,688.45	\$4,996.80	\$18,980.44
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$41,748.30</b>	<b>\$17,582.27</b>	<b>\$25,278.67</b>	<b>\$24,920.49</b>	<b>\$27,989.57</b>	<b>\$27,669.04</b>	<b>\$29,985.17</b>	<b>\$195,173.51</b>
<b>Monthly Expenses</b>								
Utilities (season total: electrical service, outhouses, landlines, water)	\$4,141.96	\$3,633.24	\$2,783.94	\$3,865.23	\$2,744.73	\$2,787.50	\$8,037.30	\$27,993.90
Secure Storage (Annual total)	\$3,321.25	\$3,247.68	\$3,247.68	\$3,831.24	\$3,202.25	\$3,202.26	\$4,743.00	\$24,795.36
Cellular Phones (2014: season total; 2015 & 2016: through Nov.)	\$5,819.44	\$1,485.41	\$2,028.88	\$941.00	\$1,073.59	\$1,679.52	\$1,958.04	\$14,985.88
Cloud Services	\$269.91	\$269.91	\$269.91	\$269.91	\$269.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,349.55

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$16,105.56</b>	<b>\$11,986.24</b>	<b>\$12,830.41</b>	<b>\$13,031.38</b>	<b>\$11,414.48</b>	<b>\$7,669.28</b>	<b>\$14,738.34</b>	<b>\$87,775.69</b>
<b>Staffing</b>								
Seasonal Staff Labor Cost	\$548,078.47	\$482,433.11	\$434,858.35	\$441,751.04	\$422,846.33	\$467,907.27	\$423,087.53	\$3,220,962.10
Background Checks	\$4,865.00	\$3,050.02	\$2,904.79	\$1,342.18	\$900.18	\$950.07	\$600.03	\$14,612.27
Marina Liability Insurance	\$13,383.00	\$13,800.00	\$14,658.40	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$5,266.00	\$5,529.00	\$83,636.40
Finance charges	\$501.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$501.94
Full time Trades Generalist w/ Benefits	\$49,738.05	\$52,774.00	\$55,809.95*	\$58,846.00	\$60,511.74	\$61,881.95	\$75,437.91	\$414,999.60
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$616,566.46</b>	<b>\$552,057.13</b>	<b>\$508,231.49</b>	<b>\$517,439.22</b>	<b>\$499,758.25</b>	<b>\$536,005.29</b>	<b>\$504,654.47</b>	<b>\$3,734,712.31</b>
<i>Summary: Program Annually Recurring Expense</i>	<i>\$674,420</i>	<i>\$581,625</i>	<i>\$546,340</i>	<i>\$555,391</i>	<i>\$539,162</i>	<i>\$571,343</i>	<i>\$549,377</i>	<i>\$4,017,661</i>
<i>Summary: Program One-Time Up-Front Expense</i>	<i>\$297,733</i>	<i>\$14,861</i>	<i>\$574</i>	<i>\$492</i>	<i>\$425</i>	<i>\$3,117</i>	<i>\$672</i>	<i>\$317,874</i>
<b>TOTAL Annual Program Cost</b>	<b>\$972,153</b>	<b>\$596,486</b>	<b>\$546,914</b>	<b>\$555,883</b>	<b>\$539,587</b>	<b>\$574,460</b>	<b>\$550,049</b>	<b>\$4,335,536</b>

\* In 2016, Park Ranger salary and benefits were paid for out of the Commission budget, not Inspection Program funding.

### Program Funding

Table 3: Staffing and program administration costs incurred by the Commission were shared by New York State and locally-based municipal and nonprofit entities:

Source	Funding (For 2020 Annual Program Cost)
NYS Environmental Protection Fund	50% of program cost, up to \$350,000
Warren County	\$100,000
Village of Lake George	\$30,000
Town of Lake George	\$30,000
Town of Bolton	\$30,000
Town of Queensbury	\$30,000
Fund for Lake George	\$30,000
Lake George Association	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>

participation in the control and monitoring of these launches.

## 2020 Inspection Program Results

The Lake George Park Commission boat inspection program had a total of 37,150 boater contacts in 2020 (Figure 1, see Appendices for all figures and tables referenced henceforth). Approximately twenty-nine percent of these (10,638) were boats arriving at Lake George without a Vessel Inspection Control Seal (VICS), requiring a full inspection (Figure 2). Of those 10,638 trailered boats, 1,185 vessels or 11.1% posed a threat of aquatic invasive species transport, and received onsite decontamination (Figures 3a and 3b).

Almost 31 percent of all boater contacts were boats returning to Lake George with a Vessel Inspection Control Seal (Figure 4), meaning they had either already had an entrance inspection from a previous visit or they were returning to Lake George following a previous exit inspection. The exit inspection of trailered boats being retrieved from Lake George represents roughly 41% of all boater contacts. This 'exit seal' portion of the program is a tremendous efficiency for the program and for boaters, keeping costs down while ensuring protection of the lake.

During the 2020 season, 315 vessels arrived at inspection stations with visible organisms (plant and/or animal) attached to the vessel or trailer, up 9.75% from last year. A total of 171 of those vessels were confirmed to have one or more aquatic invasive species present, equating to approximately 1.6% of boats arriving at Lake George. (Table 4)

Table 4: Vessels with visible AIS retrieved during entrance inspections since 2014. Note that some vessels have more than one confirmed AIS present.

### Visible invasive species identified during entrance inspections

Species	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Eurasian watermilfoil	119	67	69	70	67	71	81	544
Zebra mussels	23	20	11	29	48	54	72	257
Curly leaf pondweed	13	12	17	5	6	7	8	68
Water chestnut	8	7	11	12	28	26	13	105
Fanwort	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Quagga mussels	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hydrilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Variable leaf milfoil	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	6
Snail	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Spiny Waterflea	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rusty Crayfish	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Canada. The three most common waterbodies visited prior to coming to Lake George include the Hudson River, Saratoga Lake, and Lake Champlain (Table 6).

As expected, inspection activity is significantly greater during the short “peak” summer season (June 27<sup>th</sup>-September 7<sup>th</sup>) compared to the longer shoulder seasons (May 21<sup>st</sup> -June 26<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>). Staffing levels were adjusted in accordance to these trends in activity. Total staff hours for 2020 ranged from 81.25 to 1,202.5 hours per week throughout the season (Figure 6).

## Program Compliance

Program compliance checks are conducted primarily by the Commission’s Marine Patrol. The patrol devoted considerable time to the aquatic invasive species programs in 2020.

The patrol spent 534 hours and made 6,141 checks on launches, both public and private, around the lake. During those checks, there was activity present 167 times. Three of those checks resulted in finding vessels that were not registered to launch at certain private launches. Following investigation, one ticket was written under this regulation related to launching without an inspection, and two were given warnings and logged into the LGPC database for future potential violation action.

## Conclusions

Year 2020 was a difficult year all the way around with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the LGPC boat inspection program was not immune to these challenges. However, through the hard work of the program’s supervisors and staff, it was seen as a success in stopping more invasive species from entering Lake George than any other year of the program. This season saw 4,004 (10.8%) more total boater contacts / inspections performed than last year, the previous busiest year, all within a condensed season. It was indeed a busy boating summer on Lake George, with total inspection activity peaking at 2,774 boater contacts in a single week (August 8th to the 14th). The Million Dollar Beach (MDB) site continues to be the busiest inspection station on Lake George with almost 50% of all boater interactions occurring at this one site in 2020, due to its low launch cost, accessibility, and parking availability. With many people forced to change their summer plans due to COVID-19, many turned to outdoor recreation and boating as a way to get out and enjoy the nice weather.

This year, the Lake George Park Commission’s Boat Inspection Program succeeded in preventing one hundred seventy one vessels from entering the lake with invasive species, and potentially many others that arrived to the lake not clean, drained and dry, possibly carrying invasives not easily spotted through visual inspection. This year there were several noteworthy AIS interceptions; two vessels with fanwort, one with quagga mussels, and one with hydrilla. These

NYS DEC continued to secure their two northern launches (Mossy Point and Rogers Rock) during off-hours to help prevent uninspected launches. This strengthens the Commission's invasives prevention program and increases protection of the lake. The increase of inspection station hours at the Roger's Rock and Mossy Point launch sites to manage the DEC gates added slightly to this year's staffing costs.

The delay in the start of the 2020 season and even further delay of the Rogers Rock Campground opening led to lower 2020 operating/staffing costs. Once all sites were open and the program was in full swing, staffing costs were slightly higher compared to last year due to modest wage increases for returning staff as well as longer hours of operations at Rogers Rock and Mossy point, as mentioned above. Warmer weather this November allowed the Commission to extend its off season staffing of the Million Dollar Beach and Mossy Point sites through the end of the month, two weeks longer than last year. This negated some of the savings seen at the start of the year, but the program still operated within budget.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute-operated inspection and decontamination station at the Exit 18 northbound rest area on the NY I-87 Northway did not significantly reduce the number of uninspected boats arriving in the Lake George region. This year the Lake George program saw a total of 556 vessels arrive with ADK Clean seals from all the various Adirondack sites. That's roughly 4.9% of sealed vessels arriving at LGPC inspection stations. However, the Commission is optimistic that as time passes more boaters will become familiar with the Adirondack Welcome Center site and take advantage of its easy access and convenience, and expects the number of boats arriving at Lake George with ADK CLEAN seals to increase annually.

This aquatic invasive species prevention / mandatory boat inspection program is only successful because of the incredible support for it. The Commission gives special thanks to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the municipalities of Queensbury, Lake George, the Village of LG, Bolton, Hague and Putnam, and certainly our nonprofit lake-based partners including the Lake George Association and the Fund for Lake George. These entities provide the combined funding necessary to allow the Commission to operate this critical program every year. The Commission strives every year to make the program as cost-effective and public-friendly as possible. Lake George still has the relatively enviable position of having only five invasive species in its crystal clear waters, and with public support and community partnerships, we endeavor to keep it that way for generations to come.

## [Additional Acknowledgements](#)

The Commission would like to recognize the considerable work the Vessel Inspection Technicians did this season under adverse conditions. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of this program and the face of the Lake George Park Commission for many of the visitors to this area. They deserve acknowledgement and a pat on the back (metaphorically of course, due to social distancing requirements).

The Commission would like to thank the Lake George Association for their help identifying the many samples collected by our inspectors. A special thanks to the NYS Natural Heritage Program's iMap Invasives team for helping the Lake George Park Commission integrate with the WISPA Survey system that the many other invasive species spread prevention programs throughout New York are using. This system allows the Commission to more actively participate in

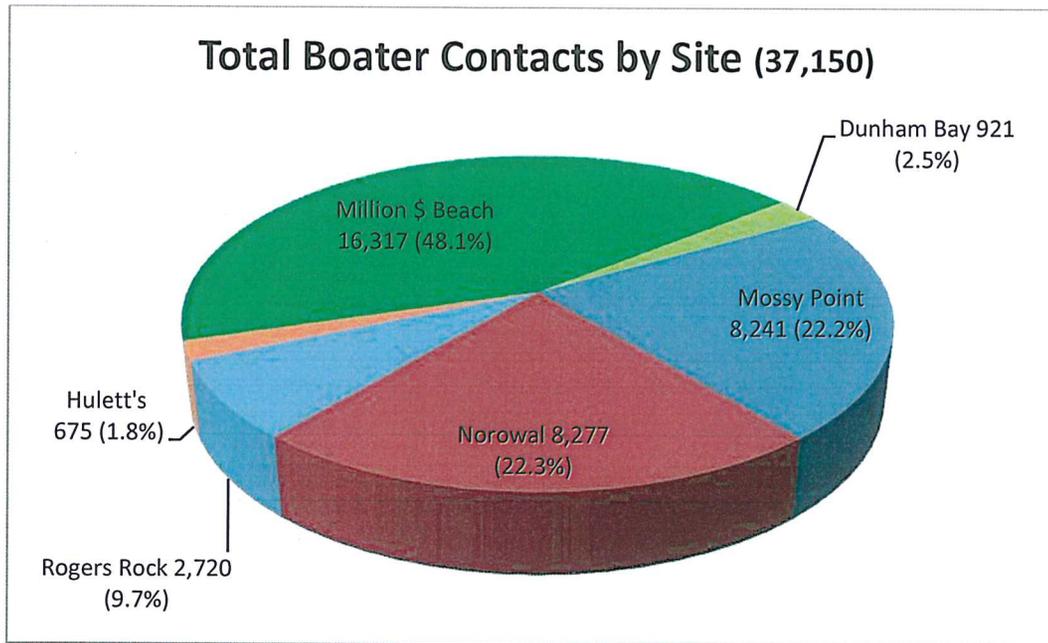
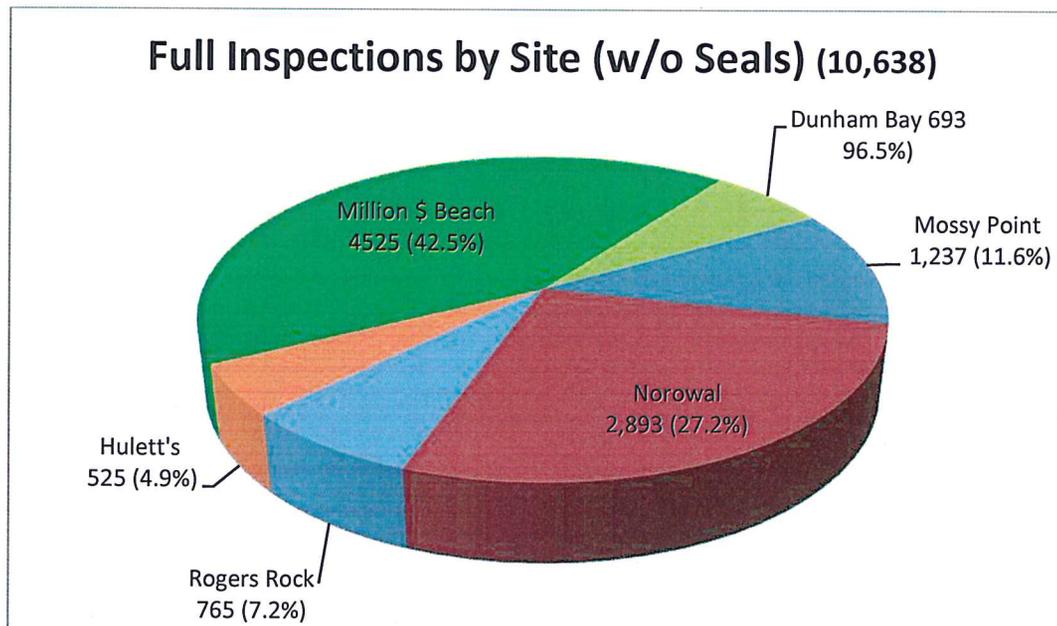


Figure 2: Total number of vessel inspections for boats arriving without VICS



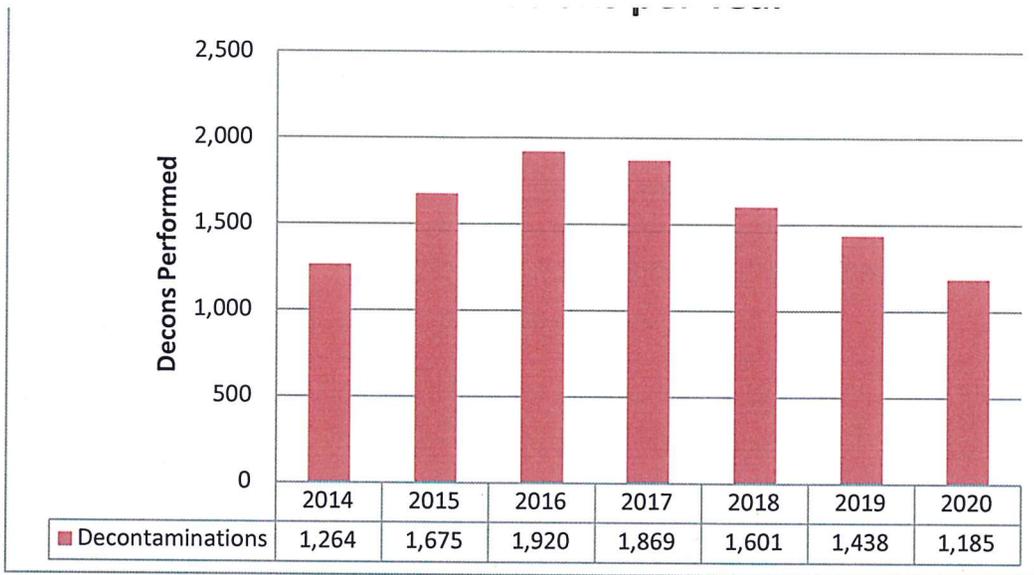
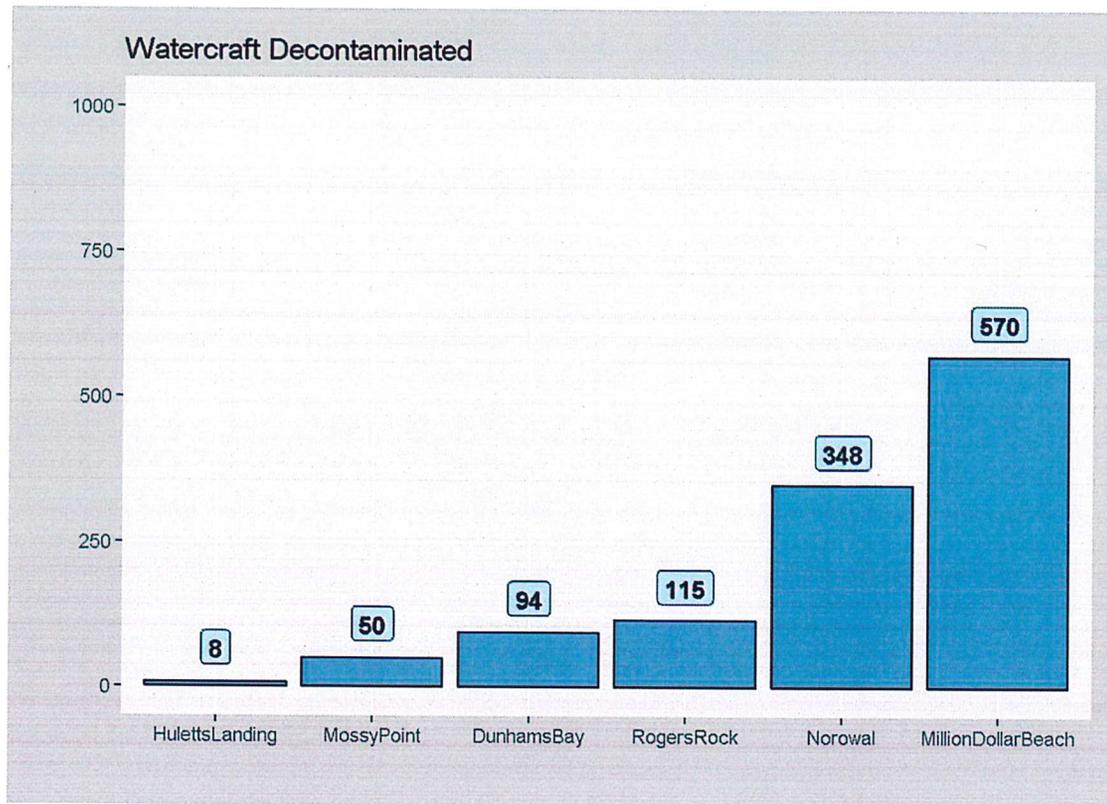


Figure 3b: Decontaminations performed at each site in 2020



## Boats Arriving with Inspection Seals (11,463)

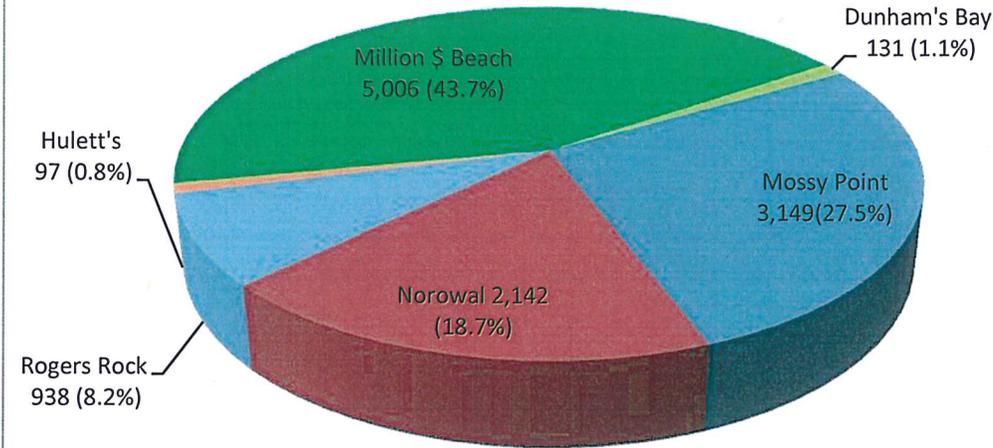


Table 6: Top ten waterbodies visited prior to arriving at Lake George in 2020.

### Top 10 Waterbodies Visited Prior to Arriving at Lake George

Rank	Water Body	Number of AIS	Number of Watercraft						
			2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	Hudson River	122	708	476	520	542	602	515	379
2	Saratoga Lake	4	493	294	429	371	386	375	279
3	Lake Champlain	51	323	290	284	320	281	251	203
4	Great Sacandaga Lake	3	308	227	242	270	272	263	196
5	Schroon Lake	3	257	179	196	204	196	204	114
6	Long Island Sound	Salt Water	220	313	320	311	253	246	124
7	Lake Hopatcong	3	214	110	211	222	216	197	185
8	Candlewood Lake	3	157	103	139	147	146	141	125
9	Connecticut River	4	141	121	109	129	124	127	91
10	Greenwood Lake	2	141	115	133	167	157	127	122

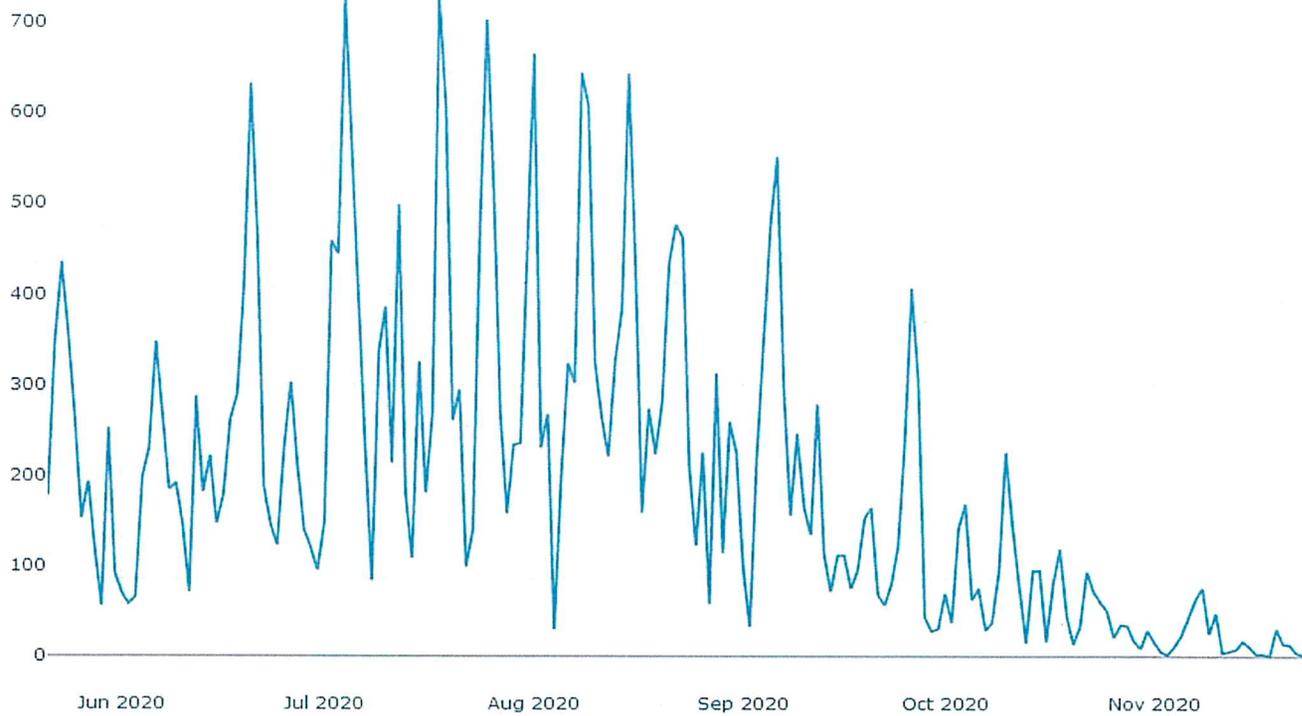
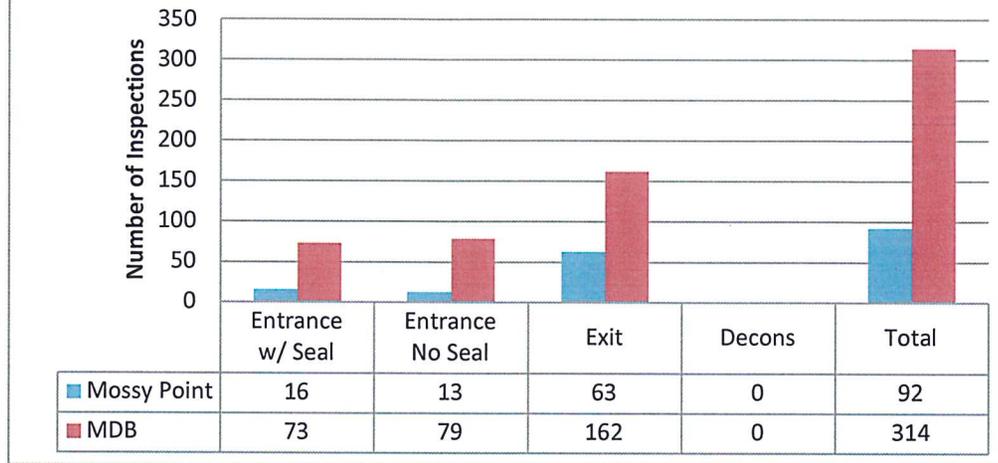


Figure 6: Temporal distribution of staff hours by week throughout the boating season. Weekly total staff hours for 2020 ranged from 81.25 to 1,202.5.



## November Inspections at DEC Sites



### END OF 2020 BOAT INSPECTION REPORT ###