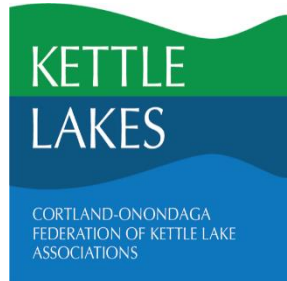


Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc
End of Year Report for 2020 and First Quarter 2021

May 2021



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

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

Board of Directors

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

www.cofokla.org
contact@cofokla.org

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

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

Executive Summary

The year 2020 drained into 2021 with no real event to provide closure. Please consider this an update on the past sixteen months. They have been busy, despite the pandemic.

Our association member dues are used to support our ongoing outreach events. Without the opportunity to hold any of our annual events we did not collect dues, but as we begin to hold events again, and continue our outreach efforts, we will need to request association member dues to continue in September 2021.

In March, when we shut down, our plans for the March 24th event, “**Protecting Water Quality in the Kettle Lake Watershed and Beyond**” were cancelled. However, we continued to work with Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), Syracuse University’s Environmental Finance Center and both our Soil and Water Districts to create a wonderfully collaborative newsletter. “**Kettle Lakes Watershed News: A Conservation Collaborative Publication**” was distributed in June 2020 to all the residents within our watersheds and working farms in our conservation districts during June 2020. We followed up with USC in December to present the 20-minute segment “**Valuing Our Kettle Lakes.**” All our virtual events are described in full on page 7.

As the pandemic realities set in, we turned our sites to planning, so during the late winter months, the board was busy. First, we created a Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2026. This plan updates and replaces the prior five-year plan developed in 2015. The process that we went through to develop this new plan was energizing and encouraging. It gave us perspective during a year when it was difficult thing to grasp the “big picture.” We began the process by reflecting on all the accomplishments of our small not-for-profit. This gave us a better view of the strengths of our group and the opportunities we have ahead. Looking to the future, we know we can continue to grow and strengthen, and we have a plan to do so. I encourage you to look at our plan (attached and as a linked pdf) and see where your association and representatives can assist.

The first part of our strategic plan included revising the by-laws to factually state the procedures of the organization. The revised bylaws can be found at the end of this report and as a linked pdf.

The board also moved forward to expand the use of the more recognizable, “Kettle Lakes Associations.” Our first step in that process was to revamp our logo. Paul Grillo (Marjorie Grillo’s son) who designed our COFOKLA logo, created our new design replacing COFOKLA with Kettle Lakes.

As we began to understand how we could use virtual media to continue to connect with our members, we also started our outreach efforts anew. For four months in 2021, we held **Kettle Lake Sharing Sessions** showcasing each of our member Kettle Lake associations. Each presentation was fun and informative allowing each to highlight their characteristics. We look forward to Kettle Lake Sharing Session, in person soon.

Tarki L. Heath,
President

Strategic Planning

The Bylaws can be viewed here: [REVISED BYLAWS](#)

The Strategic Plan can be viewed here: [COFOKLA Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#)

The logo represents the re-branding initiative started in 2015 to focus on the “Kettle Lakes” name.

The seasonal representations add a little character and fun.



Kettle Lake Speakers Series and Events

June 2020 Publication

To replace the March 24th event, “**Protecting Water Quality in the Kettle Lake Watershed and Beyond.**” We worked with Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), Syracuse University’s Environmental Finance Center and both our Soil and Water Districts to create “**Kettle Lakes Watershed News: A Conservation Collaborative Publication.**” This newsletter was mailed to all the residents within our watersheds and working farms in our conservation districts during June 2020. This publication is available at:

December 2020 Webinar

“**Valuing Our Kettle Lakes**” as part of the **Upper Susquehanna Coalition’s Watershed Wednesday Webinars.** The segment can be viewed at their website. <http://www.uppersusquehanna.org/usc/> Along with Colleen Zawadzki and Tarki Heath, Meredith Perrault from Syracuse University's Environmental Finance Center presented on their collaborative work with both Cortland and Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

September 2020

Tarki Heath and Colleen Zawadzki developed a learning experience in collaboration with Dr. Kim Schultz from SUNY ESF for 6th grade students who usually participate in the **Conservation Field Days** at Camp Owahta in McGraw each September. This unusual year included a video lesson on “**Stop the Invasion**” aimed at our “Clean, Drain and Dry” initiative to stop aquatic invasive species from entering our waterways. Here is a link to the web site which was developed and can be share with kids who are learning how to protect our lakes. [Home | aisschoolresources \(wixsite.com\)](http://Home|aisschoolresources(wixsite.com))

Story map Launched October 2020

Working with our Local, National Fish and Wildlife office, we supported the **Upper Susquehanna Conservation Alliance**, to celebrate their tenth anniversary. We had hoped to have several celebratory events for this occasion, but instead we assisted in creating a beautiful and informative story map of the Upper Susquehanna Watershed. This stunning project, **The history, significance and ongoing conservation efforts in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed are presented clearly and beautifully** in *USCA: Ten Years of Collaborative Conservation in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed*

February – May 2021

Kettle Lake Sharing Sessions

These sessions were run virtually, one lake share on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:25 PM. Each lake presented as they chose beginning in February with Tully Lake, followed by Crooked Lake in March, Song Lake in April and Little York Lake in May. Each of these sessions had approximately 30 attendees each and are currently available on Youtube.

Collaboration and Grant Writing

Funding for Shorescaping Projects:

The Watershed Implementation Plans developed by Princeton Hydro through our Chesapeake Technical Capacity Grant in 2017 continues to guide us and provides support for our work with municipalities in our watersheds. The plans may be viewed at: <https://www.cofokla.org/lake>

Our collaborative work with Onondaga County Soil and Water (OCSWD) continues. We were able to secure funding for a third series of shore scaping projects on Tully Lake. Again, this wonderfully collaborative effort included C-OFOKLA, OCSWD, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) for the project planning and Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) to do the planting. Funding over the years has accounted for approximately \$ 20,000.00

Grant: Cortland County – Stop the Invasion

This grant, to develop and deploy a self-propagating outreach and boat-steward program serving Cortland County and its public boat launches. This was part of the ongoing collaboration with Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD). We expanded this program through the *New York Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program*, with boater outreach and education as well as a CD3 station monitoring and maintenance at Little York Lake. While the funding is complete, our work to provide Education and Outreach on this project continues.

SUNY ESF – Limnology Practicum Class

We continue our connection with Professor Kimberley Schulz, Limnology professor at SUNY ESF. Since 2010, her class has visited our kettle lakes to develop projects based on the residents' requests, and the students' academic skills and requirements. We plan to reengage with the students when classes open in 2021.

NYSFOLA and the NYS DEC - The Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program continues to be the best way for our lakes to see in real time the changes that are occurring. In spite of the pandemic, this program continued under NYS COVID19 Protocols for the entire 2020 season.

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

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

Web-based informational outreach became even more important this year because COVID protocols cancelled any tabling and in-person events. As we continue the process of migrating our website to a more user-friendly format with the assistance of Don Fisher, we grew by an additional 95 people to 348 “followers” of our Facebook page.

Our partnerships with Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District and Syracuse University’s Environmental Finance Center in the development of the very popular Kettle Lakes Watershed Newsletter as well as our collaborative shoreline landscaping (shorescaping) project with Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the town of Tully, resulted in articles and outreach beyond our typical sphere of influence. Each of our partners publicized these initiatives using social media and web-based sharing and more traditional print material.

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

We developed a successful way of promoting our lake associations as an alternative to our annual in-person events in order to share their own highlights via our *four Kettle Lakes Sharing Sessions*, which were cross promoted by other lake associations and agencies. When assessing the success of this critical outreach program, we looked at our data and found that we had a total sign-up of 92 registrants for the four sessions with many attending more than one session and several attending all four sessions. This was unique because the participants were very diverse. Included were registrants from; lake associations, multiple universities, the DEC, Princeton-Hydro, NY State Parks and the general population.

Each session was videotaped and shared as a follow-up and posted on own and our lake associations’ FB pages as well as our website which became a very popular request for those who were unable to attend the session(s). We had more than seven additional requests to have the videos from other sessions disseminated. In addition, we submitted a brief four question survey which unfortunately had very few responses. Those who did responded, found the sessions informative, timely and interesting. These videos proved to be popular “hits” on our lake association social media pages. The links to each are included below.

<https://youtu.be/8uUEVaJ2a8k> Tully Lake-February
<https://youtu.be/f6mox46eonA> Crooked Lake-March
<https://youtu.be/Cm4rdDj3Gik> Song Lake-April
<https://youtu.be/NCq47XtF-Vk> Little York Lake-May

Another vehicle for sharing and promoting the beauty of our kettle lakes and the ecology of central New York was our annual photography contest. This year’s theme, “Spectacular Summer” resulted in 17 spectacular entries with may hits and “likes.” We often use these photos on our publicity outreach and Kettle Lakes Card series.

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

To acknowledge active engagement, we expanded our membership levels to include **Honorary Kettle Lake Steward – for those who volunteer time on events or office support.** At this level the steward will be provided a listing on website if desired, inclusion on email notices, advance notice about

workshops and other lake related activities, invitation to meet the speakers and a complete set of Unique Kettle Lake Note Cards. There were seven recipients in 2021 for the shorescaping work on Tully Lake.

The four *Kettle Lakes Sharing Sessions* were the opportune way to promote and educate our communities about each individual lake in our organization. The focus of each session concentrated on issues and information of their choosing which has been referenced in this report. As previously discussed, we had significant interest and participation. With the pandemic, we did not pressure membership because of decreased programming and outreach offerings.

GOAL # 4. We will continue our re-branding the region – Kettle Lakes – to energize.

Our re-branding as “Kettle Lakes Association” aids us in being easier for our partners to identify with with our Watershed Newsletter partners and outreach and with our participation in two Town of Tully goals; Keyholing regulations presented at two town Board meetings and the Cummings Park Buffer project.

The new logo is attractive, descriptive, and readily identifies us as local resources. We look forward to creating “merchandise” in the future which will further this goal.

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

This year emphasized a growing relationship with the Town of Tully and Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District in the development of a stream side buffer project at Cummings Park which was identified as a priority area in the 2017 Princeton-Hydro storm run-off study. Planning began in autumn of 2020, a meeting was held with Colleen Zawadzki, Melissa Flint-Morgan Mayor and Kenneth Teeter, P.E. Teeter and Teeter Design Consultants and Teresa Link OSWCD to develop the plan for installing the shoreline buffer which aimed to improve water quality via filtering and slowing down water before it reaches the water body. In April 2021, the OCSWCD implemented 600 feet of a shoreline buffer consisting of live stakes of streamco (purple osier) willow, pussy willow, red-osier dogwood, silky dogwood, buttonbush, and elderberry to diminish storm water from entering the waterway.

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

C-OFOKLA participated with Cortland County’s Conservation Field Days for 2020 “virtually” because we were unable to meet with the 6th grade students in person. This initiative is an important vehicle for creating young people who are informed about AIS and who will develop a positive ethic of “Clean, Drain and Dry,” as they participate with their families in recreational activities in our region. Tarki Heath, Colleen Zawadzki and Dr. Kim Schultz (SUNY ESF) created a video lesson for “Stop the Invasion, the Silent Invaders,” which could be shown to the students and their teachers at their own convenience. This website, developed by Colleen, shares these student resources to promote awareness. [Workshop Materials | aisschoolresources \(wixsite.com\)](#)

Members and Partnerships

Our Lake Association Members

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

Our Partners

Corporate Partners donation \$150.00

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

Current Corporate Partners (2020&2021):

Saint Charles Bay Cares (21)-\$125, AXI Digital (in-kind) -<http://axidigital.com>

Watershed Partners donation \$75.00

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

Current Watershed Partners (2020/2021):

Tom and Mary Cappa (20)-\$75

Kettle Club Member donation -\$25.00

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

Kettle Club members (2020 /2021):

Les Monostory, Colleen Zawadzki (21), David Zawadzki (20), Lily and Tyler Shaw (20), Lily and Tyler Shaw from C. Zawadzki (21) Lily and Tyler Shaw (20), Tom and Mary Cappa (20), Marge and Carl Grillo (21), Paul Grillo (21), Jennifer Tufano (21), Corrie Raulli (21).

Individual Member donation -\$10.00

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

Individual members (2020/2021)

None at this time.

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

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

The following Honorary Kettle Lake Stewards have participated in shoreline - scaping in 2020:

Swan Family- Mark Swan and Shaileen Swan, Melinda Portmess, Ray Ranaldo, Alice Alsever, Jean Carol Bacon, Tom Fox and Ginger Humphrey (Family), Rick and Hanna Nye (Family), Diane Sipfle

Fiscal Soundness

Donations (2020/2021) = 0

Lake Association dues (received in 2020 for prior year): \$600.00

Our Fund-raising initiatives

Card sales (2020/2021): \$22.50

COFOKLA Jewelry Sales (2020/2021): \$ 312.20

For the fiscal period of January 1, 2020-May 10, 2021

- Opening Balance = \$ 4,332.68
- Revenue = \$ 1,425.62
- Expenses = \$ 506.94
- **Ending balance = \$ 5,251.36**

Conclusion

2020 was a reflective yet productive year. While under COVID19 Protocols we shifted our work to virtual platforms and were able to provide the organization with revised bylaws, a strong five-year strategic plan, written publications, online information, webinars and sharing sessions. We are eager to move into more active engagements with our communities as soon as it is responsibly safe to do so.

As outlined in our five-year plans, we will continue to create and expand our collaborative, educational and informational outreach programs, including utilizing technology and social media outreach while developing and implementing assessments for existing programs. We remain focused on the goal to energize our community to be active watershed stewards.

One of our fundamental needs is the recruitment of active and ongoing membership, expanding levels of participation. We remain a small but dedicated group on the board, and this is where our outreach to the associations to increase our capacity is still inadequate. As we work to expand our capacity within the organization, we will continue to build on the structured relationships with our partners to foster funding opportunities and to expand and share our watershed knowledge.

The plans for 2021 are progressing as we respond to the ongoing threat of the COVID 19 pandemic and the need to adhere to the often-shifting COVID 19 protocols.