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Central Park concert crowd gets drum lessons

If people at Central Park's Agnes McDonald Music Haven Stage closed their eyes Sunday evening, they may have thought they were transported to a village in West Africa.

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Carl Strock

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Lake George residents wade, swim and dive to 'Keep the Queen Clean' of trash (with video)

By David Lombardo (Contact)
Gazette Reporter

Sunday, August 7, 2011



Photographer: Patrick Dodson

Lucienne Walker, of Saratoga Springs, right, collects trash from the dive-bag Jerry Lucas, left, brought back from diving underwater to collect trash for Lake George Cleanup Day 2011 off the shore of the Takundewide neighborhood of Cleverdale on Lake George on Saturday, June 6, 2011.

So when plastic, or a can hits the bottom that will be there forever, unless somebody goes down and picks it up."

On Saturday, Mason was one of about a dozen concerned Takundewide residents who were trying to reverse the accumulation of trash by removing it from the lake. They were participating in the "Keep the Queen Clean" project, which encouraged all the residents of the nine towns along the shoreline to help.



Volunteers gathered around Lake George on Saturday to Keep the Queen Clean, a cleanup day for the lake sponsored by Lake George Waterkeeper and The Fund for Lake George.
[Watch Video»](#)

Founded in 2002, the Waterkeeper group works in conjunction with the Fund for Lake George, with the goal of protecting the lake and its surrounding communities from pollution.

Husband-and-wife Jerry and Lu Lucas, both certified divers and owners of a Takundewide property, used snorkels to go under water and pick out trash from the bottom of the lake. "[We've] never done anything like a cleanup project," Jerry said.

The effort on Saturday extended about 100 feet from the shore, with divers able to pick trash from water that ranged from 15 feet to 25 feet deep. Armed with

LAKE GEORGE — Residents along the Lake George shoreline came together on Saturday to address a problem under the lake that has festered over the years and grown without the public taking notice.

"I'm in Rotary Club and we clean up litter," said Bill Mason, manager of the Takundewide cottages along the east side of Lake George near Kattskill Bay. "You see it, so you're more conscious about it."

The same cannot be said about the cans, bottles and assortment of trash that make their way into Lake George and slip below the surface. "We all know that plastic and aluminum never go away ...

"We have 21 acres of beautiful property and we're trying like crazy to do the right thing for our lake," Mason said. "We're trying to be responsible stewards of the lake."

This interest had been cultivated by Kathy Bozony, the natural resource specialist for the Lake George Waterkeeper, who has been speaking to residents along Lake George, with the hope of alerting them to the cause. Her words have reached many ears, including people who had never done this kind of project before.

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snorkels, flippers and a rope bag for trash, they would drift in the water until they spotted something that didn't belong and then disappear under the water.

Rosemary Pusateri, a nearby resident for over half a century, was ferrying people around on a boat so they could collect trash in other areas. The excited participant said she was encouraged by the effort and described her involvement as a no-brainer. "We couldn't not do it," Pusateri said.

This was the same attitude voiced by Takundewide resident Lucienne Walker, as she marched along a dock with one of the trash bags that had been donated by the towns on the lake. "We just want to do our part to clean it up," she said.

Walker added that their role continues beyond Saturday, with a focus on keeping the water clean. She said that Bozony's pep talk about the problems with the lake had included some suggestions about keeping the lake clean, like using buffers in the water, cleaning with phosphorus-free detergents and avoiding herbicides and pesticides.

"We all really have to contribute ... even just by doing small things," she said. "There are little things you can do that have a big impact."

Natural Resource Specialist Bozony was encouraged by the turnout on Saturday and the responses she has gotten while spreading her messages. "[I'm] glad that so many people are participating and supporting it," she said.

The 56-year-old Porter Corners resident, who has been swimming in Lake George since 1969, said the problems being addressed now are the product of years of carelessness and a lack of environmental education. "I've been here in the lake for 40 years and I started noticing a change in what I was familiar with," she said.

Three years ago, while documenting unusual algae growth, Bozony said, "I started seeing trash everywhere." Now she documents the litter with an underwater camera and tries to alert people to the problem.

"It's something that needs to be done," she said of the cleaning, which could become a yearly tradition. "It doesn't have to be a one-day event."

Takundewide manager Mason said they're already considering what can be done in the future, such as using machines that could vacuum up the unwanted debris and could be employed further out from the shore in deeper waters. "Maybe we'll get more ambitious after that," he said.

"This will be ongoing. Every year we're going to get in the water and clean this up, just a like an adopt-a-highway program," he said. "It should get easier and easier."

To learn more about land use and water quality issues regarding Lake George, check out the Lake George Waterkeeper website.

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- No

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Today's Events:

Monday, August 8, 2011

Drawn to the Same Place: Arkell Museum
Rufus Grider and Fritz Vogt 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5 - \$7

In the Mood Fitzpatrick Main Stage, Berkshire Theatre Festival
8 p.m. \$15 - \$49

Organ concert: Thomas Dressler Round Lake Auditorium
2 p.m. \$5 - \$10

Larry Finke Aperitivo Bistro
5:30 p.m.

Ukulele Night with Ron Gordon Moon & River Cafe
8 p.m.

Caleb Lionheart Bogie's
7 p.m.

Mikki Bakken Gaffney's Restaurant
8 p.m.

Metal Monday Putnam Den
8 p.m.

Memphis Fire, This Romantic Tragedy, The Nightlife, Restless Streets, Dawn of the Hero Valentine's
7 p.m.

"A Window Into Edward Hopper" Fenimore Art Museum
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Free - \$12

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