



June 2025

Invasive Species Awareness Week

By Natalie Stanton, Planner, Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development

New York State's annual Invasive Species Awareness Week is from June 3rd to June 9th, 2025. This annual campaign aims to enhance public awareness and understanding of invasive species and their detrimental impact by offering a diverse array of activities throughout the state and providing individuals with practical ways to prevent the spread of invasive species. To get more information on invasive species, and a schedule of Invasive Species Awareness Week events visit <https://nyis.info/ny-invasive-species-awareness-week/>.



Zebra mussels on a golf ball

Moravia Gives Back Day

By Michele Wunderlich, Principal Environmental Planner, Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development



On Monday, May 19, 2025, the Moravia Central School District held its annual *Moravia Gives Back Day*, a celebration of community service and student involvement. As part of the event, ten students and two teachers volunteered at the Fillmore Nature Preserve, where they helped remove invasive species and clean up trails. Michele Wunderlich provided a lesson on how to identify the invasive species in the preserve, while Adam Effler demonstrated how to properly use a boot brush station to prevent their spread. Natalie Stanton and Jessie Lloyd were also on hand, providing guidance and support throughout the project. Thanks to the hard work of these students and staff, the preserve is now a little cleaner—and our students are a little wiser about conservation and community service.



Spring Electronics Recycling Event Keeps 28+ Tons of E-Waste Out of Landfills

By Evan Tuthill, Senior Planner, Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development

Cayuga County held its annual Spring Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, March 22, 2025, with drop-off locations in Cato, Auburn, and Venice Center. Volunteers from the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, and the Cayuga County Highway Department helped facilitate the event. Thanks to all the dedicated staff members from both the County and Sunnking, the County's electronic waste recycling events continue to grow in impact, with an estimated 600 residents participating at our most recent event and safely recycling more than 57,000 pounds of electronic waste!

The Central location in Auburn (197 Franklin St) saw the largest turnout with 480 participants. The North location in Cato (2601 Ira Hill Rd) and South location in Venice Center (2942 Long Hill Rd) each welcomed approximately 60 participants.

Collected items included everything from TVs and computer equipment to batteries and small appliances. Notable totals included:

- 22,260 lbs of LCD/CRT televisions
- 21,969 lbs of small miscellaneous electronics
- 6,371 lbs of desktop/laptop computers and accessories
- 2,770 lbs of printers



In total, nearly 29 tons of electronics were diverted from the waste stream and routed for responsible recycling or reuse.

Events like this play a key role in protecting Cayuga County's water quality and natural resources by ensuring hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and refrigerants don't end up in our environment. Thank you to all the residents who participated—and stay tuned for details on future recycling events!

Looking Ahead: Annual Tire Collection Event Set for June 7th

By Evan Tuthill, Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development

Cayuga County is holding its annual Tire Collection & Recycling Event, scheduled for Saturday, June 7th, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at 7413 County House Rd, Auburn, NY. Hosted by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, this event offers residents a hassle-free way to dispose of unwanted tires. Simply load your tires, drive in, and our team will handle the unloading.

Participation is limited to Cayuga County residents, and proof of residency may be requested. To ensure smooth operations, please follow these event rules:

- Each resident may bring up to 40 tires.
- Tires must be 36 inches in diameter or less.
- Tires $\leq 30"$ will be accepted for \$2 each; tires $\geq 30"$ are \$5 each.
- Please remove excessive mud/dirt from all tires before arrival.
- Solid rubber tires, bobcat tires, crawler tracks, and aircraft tires will not be accepted.

Proper tire disposal helps prevent environmental hazards and reduces risks like fire and mosquito-borne illnesses such as West Nile Virus and EEE. Join us in making a positive impact on Cayuga County by recycling your old tires responsibly!

Partners Protecting Hemlocks for Watershed Health

Isaac Walker, Watershed Manager, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

Recently, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) assisted the Finger Lakes Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) and NY State Parks on a project to treat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), a non-native invasive insect that can harm and eventually kill hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*).

The project focused on areas within 25 feet of streams in four state parks, Buttermilk Falls, Robert H. Treman, Fillmore Glen, and Watkins Glen. Roughly 1000 trees were treated with insecticide. This treatment of trees in riparian areas is key to continuing watershed health. Hemlock trees provide shade that is essential in keeping stream temperatures cool enough for many trout species. In addition to shade, these trees provide stabilization of the steep banks found in many of these parks.

The culmination of the project was an educational site visit to Buttermilk Falls on November 7th, hosted by CWIO Watershed Manager, Isaac Walker. The visit provided watershed groups, municipalities and other partners with the opportunity to ask questions of the contractor that did the treatment, AMRO Forestry. Artem Treyger, Executive Vice President of AMRO, was able to answer questions about cost, what type of trees are eligible for treatment, and the different types of treatment available. This information was valuable for the lake associations in attendance, many of whom are interested in treating HWA on private land. This treatment is also useful for municipalities who are actively using it in parks and open spaces. Artem also gave a demonstration of the ArborJet insecticide treatment system, which was used on this project. The next phase in the project will be to survey the trees once it's been 18 months since treatment.

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Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Research at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry **By Ani Fish, Director of Environmental Health, Cayuga County Health Department**

A new research initiative at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), supported by a \$2 million donation from Sam and Carol Nappi, aims to better understand cause of algal blooms in Skaneateles Lake. This work, led by Dr. Stephen Shaw, Chair of the Environmental Resources Engineering Department, will study both harmful and non-toxic blooms that affect water quality, recreation, and public health in the region.

The project uses tools like satellite imaging for daily monitoring, nutrient tracking, and predictive modeling to assess bloom risks. By working with local partners—including government agencies and community organizations—the research team hopes to develop practical strategies to protect lake health across the Finger Lakes. Importantly, the insights gained won't just benefit Skaneateles Lake. Lakes in Cayuga County and beyond, could apply these findings to improve drinking water quality and support recreation using data-driven approaches.

This collaborative, science-based effort is a great example of local involvement and investment in our community interests.

For more information: [Sam and Carol Nappi Donate \\$2 Million to Fund Algal Bloom Research Initiative on Skaneateles Lake](#)

Cayuga County WQMA

For more information about the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency, check out our website at www.cayugacountywater.org.

The Cayuga County WQMA is also on social media. For up-to-date information on water quality issues and events, please friend us on Facebook at: <https://facebook.com/CayugaCoWQMA>. The Cayuga County WQMA YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/@CayugaCountyWQMA>.

The Cayuga County WQMA is looking for story ideas for its webpage and its newsletter. If you have something you would like to share, please email us at wqma@cayugacounty.us.

