



Hydrilla Hunter Happenings



March 6, 2020

Cayuga Lakeshore Municipalities ACTION ALERT EDITION

A call for lakewide municipal commitment to the PROPOSED Cayuga Lake Hydrilla Incident Command System

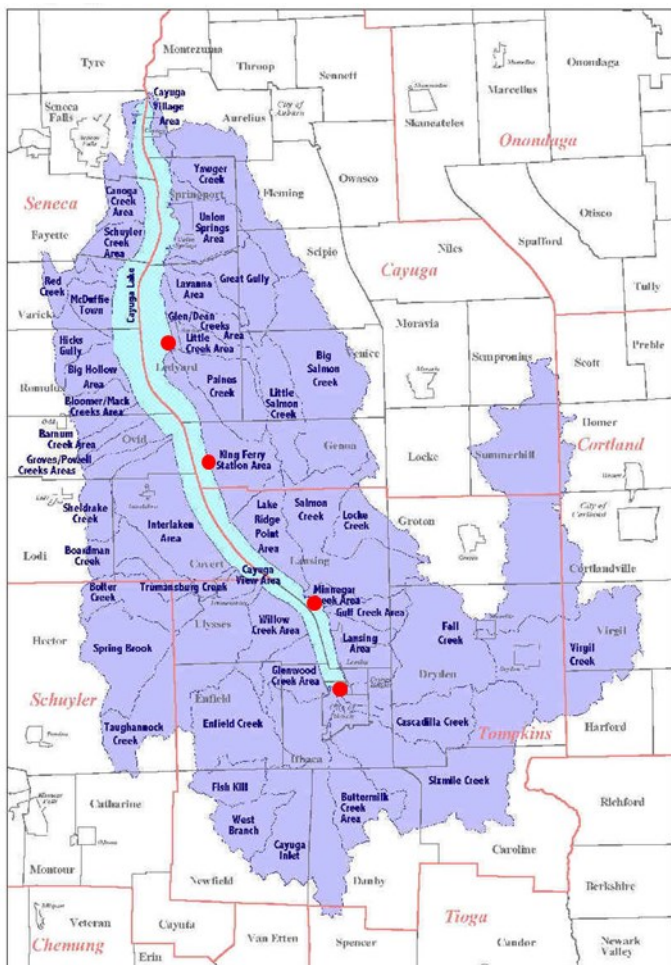
Roxanna Johnston, Watershed Coordinator, City of Ithaca

Hilary Lambert & Jenn Tufano Grillo, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Hydrilla is no longer just an Ithaca problem. It is now being monitored and treated at a half dozen sites along Cayuga Lake. **More infestations were discovered in late 2019, and more are anticipated during 2020.**

By 2019 these municipalities' shorelines and pocketbooks were affected: Town of Ledyard, Town of Genoa, Town of Lansing, Town of Ithaca, and City of Ithaca. Rapid hydrilla growth interferes with swimming and boating, and after a couple years is too dense for fish and fishing. Hydrilla can fill waters up to 30 feet deep.

To prevent lakewide infestations, the affected municipalities and others on the lakeshore need to work together: Towns of Ulysses, Covert, Ovid, Fayette, Romulus, Varick, Seneca Falls, Aurelius, and Springport.



Hydrilla infestations, Cayuga Lake 2011-2019 *see red dots on left

- City & Town of Ithaca (2011 – 2019):** South end of the lake, Fall Creek and Cayuga Inlet, Southeast shore and Merrill Sailing Center Marina.
- Town of Lansing (2019):** Finger Lakes Marina
- Town of Genoa (2018):** Don's Marina
- Town of Ledyard (2017):** Wells College dock &

Current Management Structure

New York State approaches hydrilla with an 'all emergencies are local' philosophy. This means that a new management team forms for each hydrilla find in a new jurisdiction. This can lead to competition for limited funds, mistakes in public notification and inconsistent treatment

What We Propose - Starting in 2020

Control of hydrilla around Cayuga Lake needs to be carried out by a management team based on Incident Command System (ICS) principles. (*see more, below). We have worked on hydrilla eradication and public education since 2011. We need your help to share information better, and to obtain state funding.

The ISC approach emerged during the 1970s and is now required for disaster management in New York State and at U.S. Dept of Homeland Security.

The Cayuga Lake Hydrilla Incident Command System will provide a lakewide communications and decision-making structure for fast, effective, ecologically sustainable action following discovery of new hydrilla infestations. Towns, public agencies, regional invasive species teams, scientists and treatment experts will work together to prevent hydrilla's spread around our lake and to other lakes. **Watch for email & webpage information, requesting your municipality's response and commitment.**

Thanks! Hilary Lambert steward@cayugalake.org and Jenn Tufano Grillo programs@cayugalake.org