



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1994 - 2019

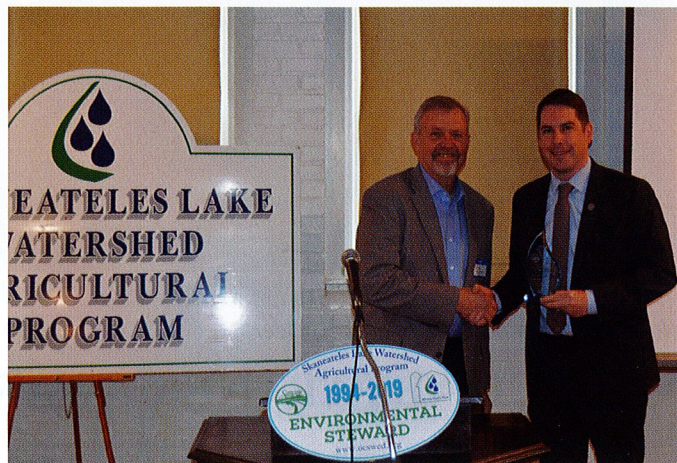


By Kim Clark, Conservation District Technician

On December 11th, the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Ag Program held its annual meeting at the Methodist Church in Skaneateles. Over 80 guests, many of them farmers, past and present employees, and collaborative agencies gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the SLWAP. The program was established in October 1994, with a staff of specialists working together with farmers who voluntarily participated in the development, promotion, and implementation of the Tiered Approach to Whole Farm Planning. The result was the implementation of management practices on farms to address non-point sources of pollution.

The 2019 'Environmental Steward of the Year' award was presented to the City of Syracuse. Ben Walsh, the Mayor of the City of Syracuse, had the pleasure of receiving the award as well as issuing a proclamation recognizing the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agriculture Program and all of the people who participate in and support the program. The award recognizes the 25 years of protecting the water quality of Skaneateles Lake and the innovative work that has been accomplished with this program. Maggie Connelly, Administrative Assistant, was also recognized for her 20 years of dedicated service.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Kimberly Schulz of SUNY ESF who presented a summary of her research on Aquatic Invasives, in particular, quagga and zebra mussels and their possible impact on Harmful Algal Blooms. Dr. Schulz' findings of her study were in the Eastern Finger Lakes, and specifically in Owasco Lake and demonstrates the increasing number of invasive quagga and zebra mussels- over 25,000 mussels were recorded in 1 square meter. The abundance of these mussels leads to a host of questions of their contributing factors on HAB's and lake health. A few of these questions include the possibility of these mussels contributing new Phosphorus, stirring up legacy Phosphorus



Mike McMahon, Chair of the Watershed Agricultural Program Review Committee, presents the award to City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh.

from decades of erosion and sedimentation that has settled on the bottom of the lakes and the impact of their filtration allowing more sunlight to increase temperatures of the surface waters. Dr. Schulz emphasized the importance of boat washing and inspection to prevent the spread of these invasives, as they can be spread by microscopic larvae. At this time there is no good solution to the invasives problem and more studies and documentation are required.



Staff, then and now with partners, working together for the health of Skaneateles Lake.

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