

Dear Friends of Cayuga Lake,

October 2019

Lots of exciting topics in this monthly newsletter:

1. *Please sign the Toxics Targeting coalition letter to the Governor to halt salt mining under Cayuga Lake. <http://www.toxicstargeting.com/MarcellusShale/letters/2017/07/20/coa-l-letter-to-gov-cuomo-re-salt-mining-under-cayuga-lake?page=20>*

2. *Please call or e-mail the Office of General Services in Albany to ask that Cargill's mineral rights agreement with OGS for mining under or near Cayuga Lake not be extended beyond December 2019.*

1. *E-mail Bradley Allen: Bradley.Allen@ogs.ny.gov*

2. *E-mail Sean Carroll: Sean.Carroll@ogs.ny.gov*

3. *Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Fall Community Conference, November 2, 9:30-1:00 PM. Our sister organization, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, will be hosting their Fall Community Conference on November 2 at the Ithaca Unitarian Society Annex. Relevant and informative topics related to the health and wellness of Cayuga Lake. Free to the public with refreshments.*

<https://www.cayugalake.org/fall-community-conference-november-2-930-100-pm-2/>

4. *We are excited for an upcoming event CLEAN is hosting at Cinemapolis. Read below for more details about this event and*

updates regarding our current campaigns. We hope to see you on November 6th at 7pm! (see 4. below)

5. *Cargill Shaft #4 Well Study: please consider signing up for this study if you live near Shaft #4. (more at 5. below)*
6. *Subsidence Study: please consider enrolling your property near the mine in this study. (more at 6. below)*

4. Watch *The Human Element* and Help Cayuga LakeToo, Nov. 6th at 7:00 pm

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF CHASING ICE, THE COVE, AND RACING EXTINCTION

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EXCLUSIVE SCREENING OF

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

AN EARTH VISION INSTITUTE film by Matt Texta and James Balog

EARTH
AIR
WATER
FIRE

In this riveting and visually rich drama, we follow renowned environmental photographer James Balog as he explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, a struggling coal mining community, and our changing air supply.

THE HUMAN ELEMENT highlights Americans who are on the frontlines of climate change, inspiring us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world.

Hosted by Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) at Cinemapolis on Nov 6th at 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$15
All proceeds will go to CLEAN for research and advocacy

Q&A after the film with panelists Cedric Mason, biological engineer; Serenna McCloud, Esq.; Brian Eden, chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council; Stephanie Redmond, CLEAN Program Manager

WE ARE A FORCE OF NATURE.
AS WE CHANGE THE ELEMENTS THE ELEMENTS CHANGE US

Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) is sponsoring a showing of *The Human Element* on November 6 at Cinemapolis, 120 E. Green St., 7:00 p.m., with proceeds to help protect the lake. After the film, audience members can learn more about local issues by engaging with panelists

Cedric Mason, biological engineer; Serenna McCloud, Esq.; Brian Eden, chair of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council; Stephanie Redmond, CLEAN Program Manager/Researcher; and others.

The Human Element is a 2019 documentary film that expands the ancient elements of earth, air, water, and fire to include humans. It has already won seven awards, including the Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival 2019 Best Feature Film. The producers are known for their other awe-inspiring works—Racing Extinction, The Cove, and Chasing Ice.

Protagonist and environmental photographer James Balog (“BAY-log”) puts human faces on the reality of climate change by featuring firefighters, coal miners, and others affected by floods, fires, and erratic weather. Balog, who has been capturing human modification of nature for 40 years, challenges us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world.

That natural world is what CLEAN hopes to protect. Based in Tompkins County, CLEAN serves 40,000 people who depend on the lake for drinking water and many thousands more who use it for recreation. Cayuga’s waters, however, are threatened by nutrient-loading manure from large farms, contaminants that leach from several coal-ash landfills, industrial runoff, and brine associated with Cargill’s extensive salt mine under the lake.

CLEAN partners with Discover Cayuga Lake, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and other local organizations on reducing salt pollution and tracking harmful algal blooms (HABS). Since its founding in April 2017, CLEAN has been monitoring the release of salt dust and brine from Cargill’s salt mine surface operations at Portland Point. CLEAN members collect and share data, educate residents, advocate for stronger lake protections, and press governmental officials to fulfill their responsibilities. Recently CLEAN and a coalition of four municipalities sued the NYS Department of

Environmental Conservation for failing to require an environmental impact review of Cargill's new mine shaft in Lansing, potentially harming local aquifers and the lake.

FMI: <http://www.CLEANcayugalake.org/>

OFFICIAL TRAILER HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k34FhplukXQ>

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE:

<https://boxoffice.diamondticketing.com/cinemapolis/upcoming/77786/6686>

FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2459174700833069/>

5. Cargill Shaft #4 Well Study

Some of the neighbors surrounding Cargill's Shaft #4 project depend on well water and have strong concerns as Cargill was preparing to drill the pilot hole for Shaft #4 in October. In December 2018, Cargill consultant, Pace Analytical found that the Koplinka-Loehr well--one of the closest to Shaft #4-- was contaminated with arsenic, methane, E. coli, and Total Coliform. Previously, a different Cargill consultant, Spectra Environmental, had in 2015 found the Koplinka-Loehr well to be a "non-detect" for arsenic and "negative" for both E. coli and Total Coliform. (Spectra released no data regarding methane.) Cargill has provided the Koplinka-Loehrs with equipment to remove arsenic from their water, but such a gesture does not

remove arsenic and other contaminants from an aquifer that is also used by others.

As aquifer water begin leaking into Shaft #4, there will be a dimple-like drawdown in the near-surface aquifer that serves households on Sweazey, Ross, & other roads in the area. Aquifer drawdown by Shaft #4 may lower the water table of the aquifer used by some local residents, but it may also pull lower-quality laterally from agricultural areas.

Several neighbors have decided to monitor their wells with a long-term submersible datalogger. It will monitor groundwater depth and any intrusion of contaminants, including salt water and wastewater. The instrument, which is the size of a chubby permanent marker, measures date/time, conductivity, temperature, and hydrostatic pressure. Cayuga Lake Environment Action Now staff members have agreed to test well-water output at the surface for salinity, metals, and other parameters on a regular basis. A group of neighbors is inviting Cargill to be in partnership and pay for many of the expenses associated with monitoring. If you'd like to be part of this, you could sign a group letter to Cargill. If they agree to help pay, you would arrange a time for installation of the loggers and cooperate with staff in gathering surface samples. Study data will be shared within the public domain.

If you live in the area surrounding Shaft #4 and are interested in being a part of this well study, please contact us at <http://cleancayugalake.org/> to sign the letter or learn more. Thank you!

6. The Near Cayuga Salt Mine Subsidence Study

The Chris Dennis Environment Foundation (CDEF) has received seed money from the Park Foundation to help launch a long-term project to monitor and publicize land surface deformation as a result of salt mining beneath Cayuga Lake and the towns of Lansing and Ulysses. At a prosaic level, data from this project will enable landowners to seek damages in the event their properties are damaged by mine-related subsidence. On the bigger picture level, data from this project may be very helpful in protecting Cayuga Lake from further salinization and from the risk of the lake collapsing into mine. A team of geology consultants hired by CDEF is of the view that, as mining under the lake progresses northward, the risks of mine collapse grow increasingly greater.

Scientists funded by CDEF have discovered that subsidence data--which began to be reported to DEC in 1979--are no longer being reported for about 25% of the subsidence monuments along the west shore. Explanations are usually limited to terse phrases as as "missing", "lost", or "in error." DEC does not appear to require that missing Cargill monuments be replaced.

As Climate Change accelerates sea-level rise and destroys the 95% of the planet's freshwater located in Antarctica, the 9.5 cubic kilometers of freshwater in Cayuga Lake will become increasingly valuable as millions of coastal residents begin moving inland. Data from this study may help halt salt-mining under the lake prior to a catastrophic mine collapse occurring. If you own property in the affected area and are interested in participating in this study, please email CLEAN.CayugaLake@gmail.com for more information.

We appreciate your continued support. Tax-deductible donations can be made to CLEAN [here](#).

Thank you, Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now

Clean the Lake.
Protect the Lake.