

Highlights of the 2025 Season



**Eco-Cruises
Floating Classroom
Trout in the Classroom**

***Nearly 10,000 Eco-Tourism Guests generated essential revenue for our
“Tourism with a Mission” philosophy!***

7418 regional tourists joined us for Public Cruises

- 3412 Farmers Market Cruisers
- 1606 Sunset Cruisers
- 1176 Osprey Eco-Cruises
- 795 Fall Foliage Eco-Cruises
- 243 Night Sky Eco-Cruises
- 187 Lake & Land Tour Eco-Cruises

2,000+ Guests joined us for 40 Private Charters

***\$54,000 in donations were allocated to provide free and reduced-cost
community cruises through DCL’s “Love Your Lake” Community Fund!***

2,561 community members joined us for free or reduced fare Community Cruises - supported by tourism revenue and the Cayuga Lake Community Fund

- 1069 Community Sunset Cruisers
- 900+ Club Cayuga DJ Cruisers
- 284 Lake Monitoring Cruisers
- 308 Family Eco-Cruise Guests

650 Local Residents & 12 Youth Groups enjoyed Community-Rate Charters - discounted charters offered by DCL to make Cayuga Lake accessible to local organizations.

- 100+ Local youths from community organizations such as GIAC, Earth Arts, the Curiosity Collective & Ithaca Children’s Garden enjoyed free Lake & Land summer cruises to Taughannock State Park.
- 550 Residents from local community organizations such as Ithaca Youth Bureau, Unity House, Kendal, Long View, Life Long, NYS Alzheimer’s Association, History Center, NY American Water Works Association and Ithaca Rotary enjoyed low-cost charters.

***\$38,230 in financial assistance from the Cayuga Lake Community Fund helped
3200+ students participate in Educational Programs during 2025.***

- **Trout in the Classroom Program** – aquariums in 20 schools, serving ~2,000 students
- **Floating Classroom Program** – 76 Cruises (in QB) serving 1700 students
- **Youth Crew** – 8 teens gained paid work experience in the fields of boating, eco-tourism, environmental education, lake monitoring and citizen science
- **Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program** – 12 paid young adult interns completed collaborative focus projects, related to their career interests, bringing together experiences from 6 host organizations engaged in watershed sustainability.

Partner Organizations we've worked with on various projects:

- NYS State Finger Lakes Regional Parks & Ithaca Farmers Market
- Nonprofits: Community Science Institute, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, PRI/Museum of the Earth, Sustainable Finger Lakes, Cayuga Bird Club, History Center at Tompkins County, GIAC, Southside Comm. Center, Soil Factory, Finger Lakes Land Trust (in addition to community cruises partners noted above)
- Ithaca & Ulysses Youth Employment Serv., TC Youth Employment Program, Ithaca Youth Bureau, Learning Web
- Trout Unlimited, US Fish & Wildlife, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Nearly all watershed school districts, and Watkins Glen, Binghamton, Syracuse & Cortland area schools, TST and Citi BOCES
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rural Youth Services, Urban 4-H, several homeschool groups
- Visit Ithaca, Chamber of Commerce, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, Experience the Finger Lakes, Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, Paddle-N-More, Cayuga Lake Wine Trail, NYS Tour Boat Association
- Funders: The Park Foundation, TRIAD, Community Foundation of Tompkins County, Tompkins County Tourism Program, Tompkins Financial, NYS Pollution Prevention Inst., Friendship Fund, Cayuga Foundation

Community Sunset Cruise Presentations:

- June 4th: Hospitality Cruise for our friends in the tourism industry
- June 11th: Amphibian Patrol: Why did the salamander cross the road?
- June 18th: Juneteenth Celebration
- June 25th: State of the Lake: "A New Season on the Lake: Our Perceptions of Lake Health"
- July 2nd: Cob Therapy: how natural building heals people, place, & water with Matteo Lundgren
- July 9th: Water is Life: Seeds & Songs of Resilience with Fruition Seeds
- July 16th: Plant Trees! Agroforestry & Water Quality with Harry Greene & Co. of Propagate
- July 23rd: Lake Trivia
- July 30th: State Of The Lake: "HABs, Communities and our Changing Climate"
- August 6th: American Lake Monsters with History Center Director, Ben Sandberg
- August 13th: Indigenous Water Protection with Jason Corwin (Seneca Nation)
- August 20th: Celestial Navigation with Captain Scott Williams
- August 27th: "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" Flooding in Tompkins County with StoryHouse Ithaca
- September 3rd: Ithaca Is Gorges Because Ithaca Was Glaciers with The Paleontological Research Institute
- September 10th: Latino Conservation Week: Water Imagery in Latin American Song with Colleen Kattau
- September 17th: The Awful Wrack on The Frontenac: A Musical w/The History Center of Tompkins County
- September 24th: State Of The Lake: "2025 Redux" with Community Watershed Partners
- October 1st: Fall Bird Migration on Cayuga Lake with Ornithologist Steve Kress
- October 8th: GALA FUNDRAISING CRUISE
- October 22nd: Creepy Cruise - Tales of Horror with History Center Director, Ben Sandberg