

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (1977) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University
B.S. (1970) Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine

EXPERIENCE

Dr. Thomas Vawter is an expert on water quality assessment and its relation to policy decisions. His retirement from Wells College as Professor of Biology and Environmental Science and Herbert E. Ives Professor of Science has enabled him to deepen his commitment to applying his scientific and management background to resolve challenges in water resources management.

An Associate Scientist at EcoLogic since 2005, Tom is an effective advocate for community involvement in natural resources management. The knowledge and skills he acquired through more than 30 years of research and teaching in ecology and evolutionary biology provide unique expertise in the science of watershed management; he can synthesize information from diverse sources into a management plan that considers ecology, geology, biogeochemistry, and the human element.

Moreover, Dr. Vawter is an effective communicator, able to interpret complex scientific and technical issues for a broad audience. He works with water-quality committees in the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization and the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association. Some highlights of his projects with EcoLogic follow.

- **Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan**
Dr. Vawter served as the lead author of the Watershed Management Plan for the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition. His excellent writing skills helped the project team compile and organize a large amount of information from this 14-county planning area.
- **Black Creek and Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plans**
In collaboration with the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, Dr. Vawter prepared the watershed characterization report sections related to the chemical and biological characterizations of these Genesee River tributaries. In addition, Tom was part of the team presenting the draft Characterization Report and Subwatershed Prioritization to stakeholders.
- **Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan**
Dr. Vawter was among the principal architects of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan and chaired the Technical Advisory Committee of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization. Dr. Vawter worked closely with EcoLogic and with stakeholders in the watershed to draft a state-of-the-watershed (characterization) report and the final watershed management plan. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Floating Classroom, an educational outreach program presenting hands-on education and outreach in watershed science to school children and others.
- **Onondaga County Ambient Monitoring Program**
From 2006 to 2012 and in 2016 and 2017, Dr. Vawter participated in data interpretation and report writing for EcoLogic's assignments with the Onondaga County Dept. of Water Environment Protection. Tom helps to prepare reports for multiple audiences, describing progress toward improvement in Onondaga Lake and its watershed. He is principally engaged in writing the technical reports and web site content.
- **A Vision for the Future of Onondaga Lake, NY**
Dr. Vawter was the principal scientist assigned to the Onondaga Lake Rehabilitation Guidance: The 2020 Vision Project, conducted by EcoLogic for the Onondaga Lake Partnership. This project brought together diverse stakeholders to formulate a common community vision for the future of an urban lake undergoing rehabilitation.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Vawter, A. T., E. C. Moran and L. P. Wagenet. 2014. A Management Plan for the Mohawk River Watershed: Engaging the Community. Annual Mohawk River Symposium, Schenectady, NY. March.

Vawter, A. T. 2009. The natural history of lakes and lake districts. Wells College Alumni College. June.

Vawter, A. T., E. C. Moran and L. P. Wagenet. 2007. A vision for the future of Onondaga Lake, NY. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting, July.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (1998-present)

Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, Board of Directors (2009-present)

Tompkins County Water Resources Council. Associate Member (2012-present)