



A clean lake reflects well on all of us.

VOL II, ISSUE 5

SUMMER 2006

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP

LAKE DAY

5TH ANNUAL ONONDAGA LAKE DAY BRINGS LEARNING AND FUN TO A DRIZZLY DAY



Matt Webber of the Izaak Walton League assists some of the day's successful fishermen.

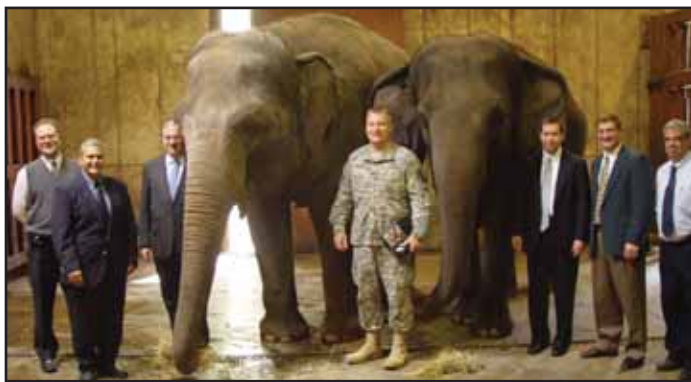
Despite cool temperatures and day-long rain, the fifth annual Onondaga Lake Day sponsored by the Onondaga Lake Partnership was enjoyed by intrepid participants of all ages. With over 30 participating groups and governmental agencies, this year's event hosted the largest number of displays to date. Most of the displays were interactive and featured hands-on activities that were both educational and fun. The program also included popular features from the past including free narrated boat and tram tours, Dr. WOW and his fun science experiments, the Eco/Info Kids Scavenger Hunt and a tank full of fish from the lake. New programs added this year included an outdoor classroom with how-to demonstrations throughout the day, a free fishing clinic for kids, critters from the Zoo and bluebird nesting

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THE ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

Promotes cooperation among federal, state, and local governments, and other involved parties in the management of the environmental issues of Onondaga Lake and the Onondaga Lake watershed in the Syracuse, New York area.

2006 MINI-GRANTS AWARDED AT ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO



Rosamond Gifford Zoo Asian elephants and (left to right): Steve Eidt (NYSDEC), Mario Delvicario (EPA), Alan Steinberg (Regional Administrator for Region 2, EPA), Lt. Col. Timothy Touchette (U.S.ACE), Congressman James Walsh, Kenneth Lynch (Region 7, Director, NYSDEC) and Chuck Doyle (Director, Rosamond Gifford Zoo) at OLP Mini-Grant event.

On May 12, 2006, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park hosted the 2006 Mini-Grant event sponsored by the Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP). Ten mini-grants totaling nearly \$34,000 were awarded.

The OLP Mini-Grant Program funds projects and educational activities that help restore and enhance the habitat associated with Onondaga Lake and its watershed. The mini-grants are supported by the OLP through a grant from the EPA to the Onondaga Environmental Institute. This year's recipients and their projects are:

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Brian Skinner (hard hat) of National Grid gives planting tips to the OLP Executive Partners before they help plant the tree on the lake's shore.

boxes to make with the help of members of the CNY Bluebird Society.

“Our theme this year was ‘The Lake is getting better. See how You can help’ and from all the comments I heard from participants and our Sunday morning headline in the Syracuse newspaper, we made both points,” said Sue Miller, Chair of the event for the third year.

Family groups came throughout the afternoon with children trying every activity and adults collecting information on recycling, rain gardens, ways to reduce runoff and learning about programs underway to further improve the lake.

Throughout the day, members of the Izaak Walton League stood in the rain to help dozens of youngsters learn how to cast and fish off the pier. The lake's sunfish and bass cooperated as one excited child after another pulled out fish—for some it was their very first fish they've caught.

Liverpool 7th grade student and winner of the statewide Arbor Day poster contest for 2004, Joshua Tredway helped the Executive Partners including Lt. Col. Timothy Touchette of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, County Executive Nicholas Pirro, Syracuse Mayor Matthew Driscoll and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Regional Director Ken Lynch plant a tree along the shore line to commemorate the event. Josh's prize winning poster stressed the importance of trees to the environment especially in urban areas. Lt. Col. Touchette recognized Joshua's achievement and presented him with an OLP tee shirt and a fishing pole. Following introductions, Brian Skinner a forester with National Grid instructed the OLP representatives as well as onlookers in the proper



A father helps his son find an answer to the Eco/Info Scavenger Hunt.



Conrad Strozik of the CNY Bluebird Society assists one of the many young helpers build a bluebird nesting box.

method of planting a tree. Following this, free white spruce tree seedlings were distributed from NYSDEC.

Under the classroom tent, people heard presentations by a variety of speakers including Nate Keefe from the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo who brought some native species to the event. Additional presentations related to sailing, bluebirds and trees. Other highlights of the day included the photos of big fish caught in the lake displayed by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, an eye-catching exhibit on carp fishing, construction of wood duck boxes by the Wildfowlers and the sound of many hands hammering as kids and parents constructed bluebird boxes that will be placed in the watershed. ■

MINI-GRANTS AWARDED AT ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO *continued from page 1*



Patty Weiss, Centers for Nature Education Mini Grant recipient receives check from (left to right): Kenneth Lynch (Region 7 Director, NYSDEC), Lt. Col. Timothy Touchette (U.S.A.C.E), Alan Steinberg (Regional Administrator for Region 2, EPA), County Executive Nicholas Pirro, Congressman James Walsh, Chuck Doyle (Director, Rosamond Gifford Zoo) and Syracuse Mayor Matthew Driscoll.

Dunbar Association—\$5,000 to create hands on environmental educational experiences by matching up teenagers and local environmental experts for field visits and workshops related to the Onondaga Creek basin.

Atlantic States Legal Foundation—\$5,000 to print and distribute Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian translations of the NY State Department of Health fish advisories to non-English-speaking communities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County—\$5,000 to monitor water chestnut in the lake outlet and Seneca River with the ultimate goal of controlling small populations in order to prevent the infestation of Onondaga Lake.

Centers for Nature Education Two grants were awarded: \$2,500 to continue and expand Enviromail listings which promote environmental events, meetings, resources and announcements to Central New York residents; and \$2,500 to educate community groups and school children during their visits to Baltimore Woods about the Onondaga Lake watershed and promote pollution prevention practices.

Roxboro Middle School—\$2,632 to improve the habitat for a portion of the Beartrap Creek through invasive plant prevention techniques. The school's students will also conduct physical, biological and chemical studies on the site.

Liverpool Central Elementary Science Center—\$3,748 to expand their water quality testing program at Onondaga Lake watershed sites.

The Wildfowlers Association of Central NY—\$1,000 to build and place Wood Duck nesting boxes strategically along walking trails of Onondaga Lake. Students will assist the organization in building the nesting boxes.

Huntington Family Centers—\$1,555 to organize cleanup field trips on Onondaga Lake and Onondaga Creek. Kayaks and canoes will be used for the Onondaga Lake cleanups. The Creek cleanups will be conducted on foot along the creek edges.

Onondaga Creek Kids—\$5,000 to implement a community based, interdisciplinary curriculum for grade school children about Onondaga Lake and Onondaga Creek issues.

The OLP congratulates the 2006 recipients! The 2007 OLP Mini-Grant Program will be announced at the OLP Annual Progress Meeting on October 25, 2006. For more information, please contact the Onondaga Environmental Institute at (315) 472-2150, ext. 24. ■

OLP CELEBRATES EARTH DAY AT ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO



OLP's Diane Carlton (NYSDEC) explains Onondaga Lake Watershed issues to a Gifford Zoo volunteer.

Earth Day 2006 was celebrated April 22 at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park in Syracuse by holding an event called "Eco Expo: Earth Day Celebrations". The Eco Expo featured many environmental groups that had information to share with the public about local and worldwide environmental issues. The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) exhibited at the Expo and shared information about the Onondaga Lake Watershed, OLP mini grants and environmental education programs. Children particularly liked the environmental stickers and wetlands/water theme coloring books that were educational and fun. ■

WHY DO STREAMS MEANDER?

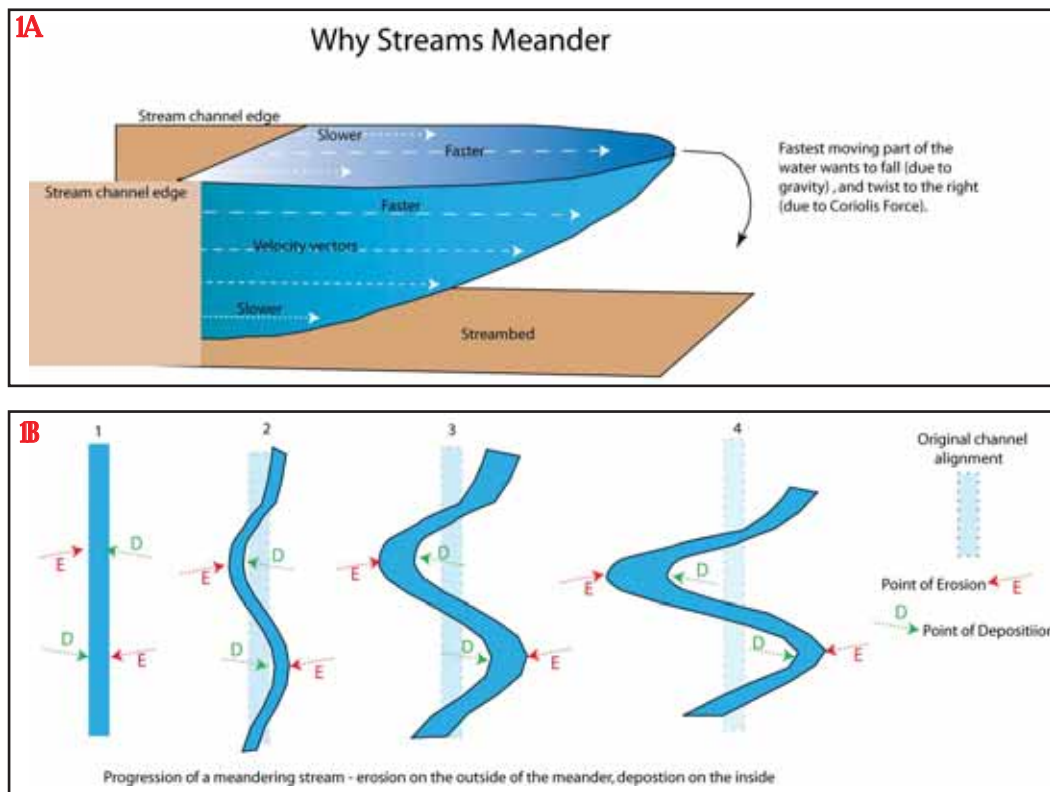


Figure 1A shows the dynamics of how water moves in a stream—the center top of the water column moves the fastest, and due to gravity, it wants to fall and turn to the right (in the Northern Hemisphere) therefore water has the ability to erode a streambank as it moves downstream. Figure 1B shows the progression of erosion and deposition processes causes the formation of a meandering stream.

A group of hydrologists once asked Albert Einstein's son Hans, "Why do streams meander"? Dr. Hans Albert Einstein was a hydraulic engineer and was well versed in stream dynamics. Dr. Einstein pondered the question over for several moments, then wrote down a formula and handed it over to the hydrologists. In time, the hydrologists determined what the equation meant. Dr. Einstein's equation related to frictional forces along the streambed, as well as internal flow dynamics, all of which are highly complex.

Let's begin with the basics. In a stream channel, friction (which slows the velocity of water) is greatest on the stream bed and banks, therefore water moves more slowly at the stream banks and more rapidly in the center of the stream. A wall of water released instantaneously down a stream channel would quickly take on the shape of an extended curve—the greatest extension at the center top of the water mass (Figure 1A). Due to gravity, the extended part of the water wants to fall, being pulled down by gravity, and due to the Coriolis force (related to the rotation of the earth), as the water descends it also curves toward the right (in the Northern Hemisphere). As this descending water flows further downstream, it dives downward and has

the ability to erode the right side stream bank. The water will then move across the stream bottom, and flows up to the other side of the channel (think of a spiral moving downstream). On the rising (left side) of the channel, the moving water loses some energy but upon encountering the left bank, it also has the ability to erode that bank. As the stream begins to erode one stream bank, it transports material on the opposite stream bank. As this process continues on the right bank, it begins to 'cut' further into the right bank, shaping a straight

sided stream channel into an S-shaped meandering stream channel (Figure 1B).

The pattern, extent, and complexity of meandering depends on the physical factors of the water course—the slope of the streambed, the size, shape, bed texture, bank materials, depth and velocity of water in the stream channel. The steeper the slope, the less meandering occurs as the velocity of water wants to move straight, although the water still has the ability to move materials within the channel. The flatter the slope of the channel, the greater degree of meandering can occur. If the stream bed/bank materials are not prone to erosion (bedrock or heavy gravel) meandering is limited, but if the materials are fine-grained silt and clay, they are more prone to erosion. Finally, when a stream meanders, it is usually trying to lengthen its channel, thereby slowing the velocity and the rate of erosion. In fact, the stream's ability to flatten its slope actually causes deposition, which in turn can cause more erosion as the channel fills with sediment. During higher flows, its ability to move streambed material increases and also cuts a wider or deeper channel—it is

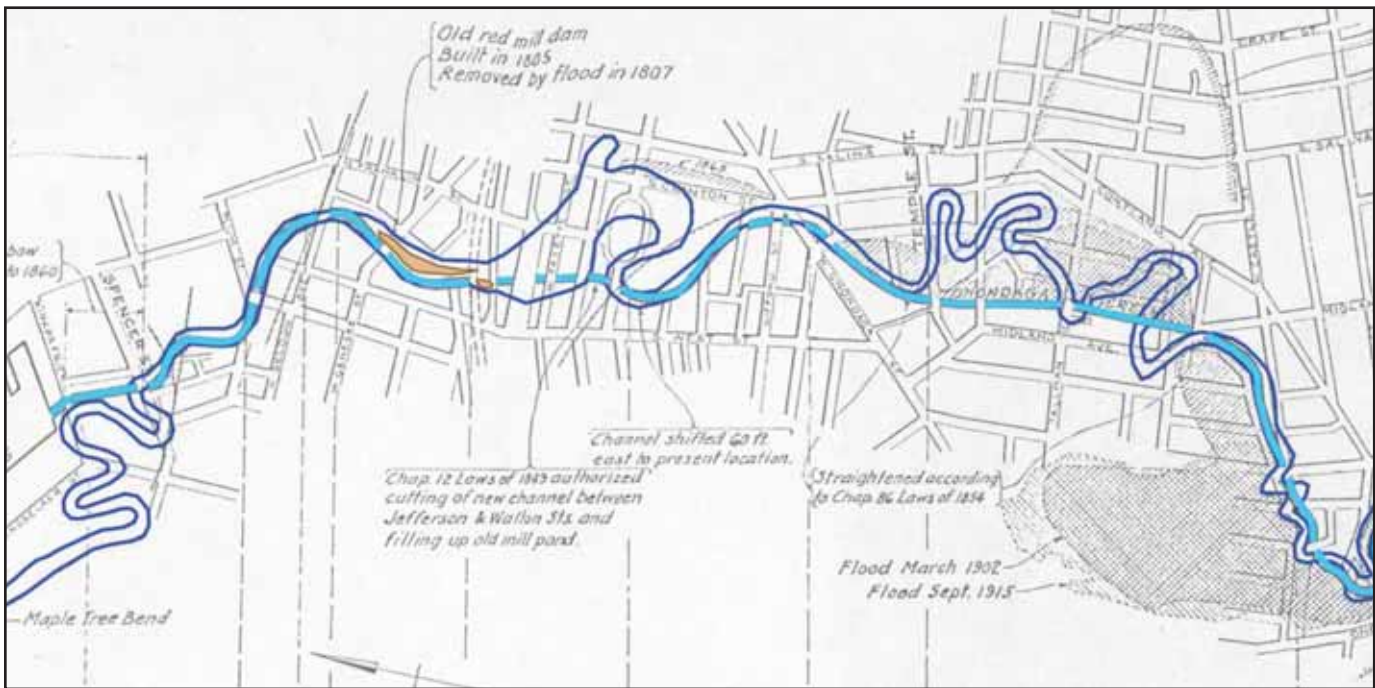


Figure 2—Map showing the “trace” of the Onondaga Creek Channel from the Inner Harbor to Kennedy Street (in dark blue) from the early to mid-1800’s and the realigned channel of the creek (in light blue) in the early 1900’s. The base map is from the 1927 Syracuse Sewer Intercepting Report which was investigating flooding in the downtown area—note the shaded areas on the right hand portion of the map which shows the effects of flooding due to the meandering channel.

the never-ending cycle of nature.

ONONDAGA CREEK

The range of stream meandering across a floodplain depends on the variables noted above. In the case of Onondaga Creek, in the upper reaches (from the bedrock walls of the valley), the slope is steep and little meandering occurs. Once the stream reaches the valley floor, the slope diminishes and the creek flows more slowly. Since the glacier receded from the region, thousands of years ago, Onondaga Creek has slowly meandered across the valley floor. As the city and region developed in the valley, excessive flooding occurred during large rainstorms due to the flat slope of the valley floor and the slow moving water within the highly meandering stream. In the early 1800’s a number of water-powered mills further blocked the stream channel and made flooding worse. As the city developed, mills and dams were removed to enhance the movement of water through the growing city, but flooding still occurred. By the early 1900’s, sections of the stream were being ‘straightened’ (Figure 2.) in order to have the flood waters more quickly move through the city to Onondaga Lake. The once slowly meandering Onondaga Creek became a straight channel, in many places lined with stone or concrete to prevent future

meandering. The creek channel we have today, and the large flood control structure (dam) located just below the junction of Onondaga Creek and its West Branch, located on the Onondaga Nation, has reduced flooding within the city, but because of the straightening project, the flood waters now rapidly move through the city, and are so dangerous during high-water events that the stream and its banks are fenced off to prevent injury and death during these flood periods.

You can participate in the Onondaga Creek Community Forums and provide input on your dreams, goals and concerns for Onondaga Creek. The forums are free and open to the public. Public input gathered at the forums will be incorporated into the Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan by the Onondaga Creek Working Group. Find the next forum date, add your input, or learn more about the project, by visiting www.esf.edu/onondagacreek, or calling 472-2150 x22. ■

SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th Annual **Onondaga Creek Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday September 9 and 16, 2006. Volunteers will be needed for land and boat crews. Mark your calendars now! For more information, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County at (315) 424-9485. ■

FIRST-EVER SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT HELD IN SYRACUSE



Mayor Matthew Driscoll hosted the first Sustainability Summit, entitled “Moving Toward Sustainable Municipalities”, on April 26, 2006 at the Convention Center at OnCenter in downtown Syracuse in partnership with F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse’s “Link CNY Innovation Expo”. The summit and expo brought together businesses, not-for-profits, education, and government entities in an attempt to foster positive environmental change within our communities.

F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, the Syracuse Center of Excellence and Mayor Driscoll felt it made sense to hold the summit in Syracuse because the city is one of New York State’s leaders in energy conservation and pollution reduction. By holding the summit here, all of the groups involved were able to lay the foundation for future collaboration and share Syracuse’s environmental practices with other municipalities in New York State.

“While Syracuse remains a leader in environmental stewardship,” Mayor Driscoll said, “we still have a long way to go. Part of that journey involves helping other municipal leaders see how they can incorporate energy saving programs into their operations.”

The conference demonstrated current, new and cutting-edge technology that municipalities are or can use to save energy, decrease pollution and reduce carbon emissions as they strive toward creating effective and lasting sustainable communities.

“This was the first time we were able to create an atmosphere where the general public could see, feel, learn about and have a sense of pride in the vast research,

resources and assets all around us,” said Chuckie Holstein, executive director of F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse.

Throughout the day, attendees also had the opportunity to attend workshops and plenary sessions where experts were on hand to discuss various aspects of sustainability such as alternatives fuels, renewable energy, cost reduction, and energy conserving retrofits.

The CNY Link Expo featured 84 exhibits from businesses and municipalities where efforts towards a sustainable future were showcased. Exhibits included a car designed to run on vegetable oil by students at Cicero North Syracuse High School, and insulation made from soy beans.

According to Mark Lichtenstein of the Syracuse Center of Excellence, “The Expo provided us with multiple opportunities to talk about new ideas and showcase products and services necessary to support sustainable communities now and for future generations.”

The summit drew nearly 3,000 attendees including 30 representatives from municipalities across New York State who came to present their knowledge of sustainability efforts and to find new ways to implement energy and cost reduction plans at home.

Mayor Driscoll was not surprised at the level of interest from municipal leaders throughout the state. “Sustainable actions leading to cost savings have become a priority in these times of increasing energy costs and dwindling revenues,” he said.

The Summit was presented in conjunction with the Syracuse Common Council; the New York Conference of Mayors; The NYS Association of Towns; the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems; the Global Warming Action Network; GreeningUSA; Syracuse University; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; EPA Region II Environmental Finance Center Syracuse; the Syracuse City School District; the Central and Northern NY Building and Construction Trades Council; Clean Communities of CNY; New York Energy Research and Development Authority and Onondaga County and, according to all who participated, was a huge success.

Mayor Driscoll said he is looking forward to next year’s Sustainability Summit. “I’m hoping we can make this an annual event,” he said. ■

ONONDAGA CREEK COMMUNITY FORUMS GATHER VALUABLE PUBLIC INPUT

The Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan Project held a series of community forums this spring to gather public input for the future of Onondaga Creek. As of May 5, the first two forums were conducted at the Bob Cecile Center in the Valley and at City Hall Commons Atrium in Syracuse. Each meeting drew over 80 people to share their thoughts, dreams, and concerns about Onondaga Creek.

Attendees used a variety of verbal, written and graphic methods to share their ideas about revitalizing Onondaga Creek. The process proved to be an efficient method to gather input from involved citizens. The input will be compiled and released to the public sometime this fall. The information gathered will be used by the volunteer working group in conjunction with technical reports about Onondaga Creek.

The project goal is to develop a community-based revitalization plan for the Onondaga Creek watershed, providing a guide for future development, water quality, and habitat improvements that can enhance social, environmental and economic conditions along the creek corridor. Onondaga Creek is important because its watershed covers approximately 111 square miles of Onondaga County, including most of the City of Syracuse. On average, the Onondaga Creek watershed contributes 35 percent of the water flowing into Onondaga Lake. The Onondaga Lake Partnership may choose to incorporate the conceptual plan for the revitalization of Onondaga Creek into the overall management plan for Onondaga Lake.

If you missed the community forums, you can still share your thoughts at the virtual community forum, located at www.esf.edu/onondagacreek. Thank you to everyone who attended a community forum. The plan depends on your input! ■

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: OLP Annual Progress Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, October 25

WHERE: Broadway Bistro at the New York State Fairgrounds, Art & Home Center

TIME: 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m.

The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

2ND ANNUAL CARP FISHING WEEKEND PLANNED FOR JUNE 24 & 25



2005 Carp Tournament participants.

The Onondaga Lake Partnership and the Onondaga County Parks Department will host the 2nd annual Carp Fishing Weekend on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 at the Onondaga Lake County Park in Liverpool. The event will once again coincide with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's "Free Fishing Weekend", meaning that the participants in the weekend's fishing activities will not be required to have a fishing license.

The Carp Fishing Weekend includes a Carp Fishing Tournament on Saturday, that runs from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., and a "Family Fun Fishing Derby" on Sunday morning from 9 a.m. until noon. The carp tournament is a national Carp Anglers Group sanctioned event with a \$10 entry fee for adults and \$5 fee for juniors aged 15 and under. Prizes include gift certificates up to \$1,500 for the carp tournament winners, and a minimum of \$500 in merchandise prizes for Sunday's fishing derby participants.

The central location for both the carp tournament and the fishing derby will be the Onondaga County Parks Department concession building located in the Onondaga Lake Park at Long Branch Road, near the Syracuse University Boat House. Entry forms for the Carp Fishing Weekend will be available through the Onondaga Lake Park Griffin Visitors Center, and at Mickey's Live Bait & Tackle store in North Syracuse. Tickets for Sunday's fishing derby will cost \$2 for adults and \$1 for juniors. The registration deadline for Saturday's Carp Fishing Tournament is Friday, June 23.

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Executive Committee Members

Chaired by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Attorney General
- Onondaga County
- City of Syracuse

PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chaired by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Representatives of Executive Committee agencies, as well as:

- Syracuse Department of Public Works
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
- Metropolitan Development Association

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chaired by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Representatives of Executive Committee agencies, as well as:

- Izaak Walton League
- Atlantic States Legal Foundation
- League of Women Voters
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County
- State University of New York — College of Environmental Science & Forestry
- Onondaga Historical Association

The Executive Committee establishes and maintains the mission of the partnership and the lake improvement effort.

The Project Committee serves as the partnership technical center of expertise on specific projects and develops and maintains the funding strategy for projects.

The Outreach Committee works to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the partnership and the status of the lake improvement effort.

YOU CAN CONTACT THE ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP AT:

1-800-833-6390

info@onlakepartners.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP WEB SITE AT WWW.ONLAKEPARTNERS.ORG

2ND ANNUAL CARP FISHING WEEKEND PLANNED

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Participants in Sunday's Family Fun Fishing Derby can register until 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

Last year's Carp Fishing Weekend attracted a very enthusiastic group of carp and recreational anglers, and even more participants are anticipated for this second year of the OLP-sponsored event. All of the carp tournament and family fun fishing activities will be catch and release; and remember, no New York State fishing license is required. ■

OLP E NEWS

Do you love to hike, bicycle, fish or canoe? Would you like to get involved in planting trees or cleaning up a stream? Do you enjoy learning about nature? Do you want to know when and where you can go to comment on environmental issues?

The EnviroMail is an e-mail calendar of environment-related events, issues and resources going on in Central New York. The free listing includes hikes, kids' activities, nature programs, meetings, public hearings, fundraisers, open space clean-ups and other events put on by the region's nature centers, non-profits, community groups and government agencies. The EnviroMail also highlights environment-related publications, resources and web links. EnviroMails are sent at the beginning and middle of every month, with occasional special updates during the month.

It's free and easy to sign up. Just send an e-mail to leegech@dreamscape.com and ask to be put onto the EnviroMail list. Simply write Add to EnviroMail in the subject line, and give your name and e-mail address. Make sure to adjust your anti-spam software to let the EnviroMails through.

EnviroMails have been made possible by generous support from the Onondaga Lake Partnership, U.S. EPA, Centers for Nature Education and the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency. ■

This newsletter is intended to provide general information to the public regarding the Onondaga Lake basin and activities related to the cleanup and restoration thereof. Approval for publication by the members of the OLP does not signify adoption or approval for purposes of regulatory, enforcement or other legal actions, of the factual, scientific, or legal assertions, characterizations or conclusions contained therein.