



News Release

For immediate release: June 1, 2004

For further information: Nancy Sticht, 716-879-4134

***Editor's Notes included**

Third Annual Onondaga Lake Day offers free family fun

Syracuse, N.Y. – The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) will hold its third annual Onondaga Lake Day event on Sat., June 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The free day of recreational and educational activities is open to the public and will include a variety of activities at Onondaga Lake Park, near the Griffin Visitors Center.

“Our theme for this year’s event is ‘In, On and Around the Lake,’ and will feature displays and activities on the uses and ecology of Onondaga Lake and its shoreline – past, present and future,” said Sue Miller, OLP Outreach Committee member and chair of the event.

- MORE -

Narrated tram and bicycle tours, a kids scavenger hunt, fully costumed re-enactors to demonstrate lake-related recreation, crafts, trades and turn of the century children's games, educational exhibits and displays, and much more will provide enjoyable ways to learn the history, geography, recreational opportunities and restoration efforts for Onondaga Lake and its watershed.

“Onondaga Lake Day is a celebration of progress and potential,” Miller said. “We want to highlight the extensive progress we have made in cleaning up Onondaga Lake and remind all Central New Yorkers what a beautiful recreational and natural resource we have in our backyard. At the same time, we want to emphasize the challenges that lay ahead for reclaiming this community asset and valuable body of water.”

Representatives of many of the OLP member agencies and other organizations with an interest in Onondaga Lake will have staffed displays at the event. Interactive exhibits include “Dr. Wow,” aka Steve Gould from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency performing science demonstrations about water and local radio and television garden show host Terry Ettinger to answer questions about proper lawn and garden care that protects the lake and its watershed. The U.S. Geological Survey will also offer two tours of the Tully Valley Mudboils; reservations are required and may be made by calling Bill Kappel at 607-266-0217, extension 3013.

Guests will also have the opportunity to meet members of the Onondaga Lake Partnership from 11:30 to 12:30 and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Information Tent.

- MORE -

“We look forward to meeting many members of the community who may have questions or comments on habitat, recreational opportunities and current restoration projects,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall, Chair of the OLP Executive Committee.

Onondaga Lake Day will be held rain or shine, and activities are subject to change without prior notice. Further details are available on the OLP website at www.onlakepartners.org or by calling toll free 1-800-833-6390.

Onondaga Lake Day is sponsored by the Onondaga Lake Partnership, a group of federal, state and local agencies and other involved parties working together to restore and enhance Onondaga Lake and its watershed.

###

*** Notes to editors:**

- Complete event schedule attached; please feel free to print in its entirety.
- **Photo Opportunity and media availability at 11:00 a.m. featuring:**
 - Nicholas J. Pirro, Onondaga County Executive
 - Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll, City of Syracuse
 - Steven P. Eidt, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Christopher Wiles, New York State Attorney General’s Office
 - Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Seth Ausubel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Program Schedule for Onondaga Lake Day 2004
Saturday, June 5, 2004
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Onondaga Lake Park, Liverpool
Near Griffin Visitor Center

“In, On and Around the Lake – Past, Present and Future”

Time	Event
10:00 – 3:00	Exhibits and Displays by Partnership Members and other organizations related to the uses and ecology of the Lake, its shoreline and watershed – past, present and future. Located under large Exhibit Tent on the lakeside of the new Griffin Visitor Center.
10:00 – 3:00	Fish tank with fish from the Lake arranged and staffed by County’s Department of Water Environment Protection lake monitoring personnel at the Exhibit Tent.
10:00 – 3:00	Fun Eco-Info Scavenger Hunt for Kids A printed guide will lead kids to locate interesting information on the lake’s history and ecology. Stops are all within walking distance of the Exhibit Tent and those completing the Hunt will receive a prize for their efforts.
10:00 – 3:00	Fully costumed interpreters will be located in a Living History Tent with information and demonstrations of lake related recreation, crafts and trades associated with the time period of 1860 – early 1900’s along the lake shore. Persons include a blacksmith as was needed and worked on the Erie Canal, the “Herb Lady” with knowledge of plants used for food, medicinal and other purposes and Salt Baron. 1:30 p.m. – special activity for kids to take part in making wool fabric with the “Wool Lady” as she teaches about “salting.”
10:00 – 3:00	Demonstrations of knot tying and anatomy of sailboat exhibit at the Syracuse Yacht Club booth in the Exhibit Tent. Plus all day Open House at the Yacht Club.
10:00 – 3:00	The Amazing Dr. WOW will perform interesting and exciting science demonstrations about water at the EPA booth in the Exhibit Tent. Fun and educational for kids of all ages.

10:00 – 3:00	Special Guided Tours will be offered at the Salt Museum by costumed guides. Let a salt baron tell you about his industry and describe the contents of this one of a kind museum.
10:00 – 11:30	Full 1 ½ hour Historical Narrated Tram Tour led by local author and historian Don Thompson. Ride and stops will go the entire east side trail up to Mud Lock and return to Salt Museum. Thompson, the foremost authority on the resorts which once dotted the lake’s shoreline, authored the book, “The Golden Age of Onondaga Lake Resorts.” His tours are fun and informative.
11:00 – 12 noon	Roller Blade Class for Beginners – call 453-0506 to register.
11:30/ 12:30 / 1:30	One Hour narrated Tram Tours leaving the Visitors’ Center with stops related to history and ecology of the lake. Abbreviated versions of longer tour led by costumed interpreters who are very knowledgeable of the lake and its history.
12 noon	Roller Blade Demonstration at back of Visitor Center. See the latest techniques demonstrated by a roller blade instructor.
12 noon – 2 p.m.	Special 2-hour bike tour of east and west shores led by local historian and author Don Thompson. Bring your own bike or rent at rental shop at Visitor Center. First of its kind event! Bicyclists will visit many spots along the lake shore trails and learn what took place in the past at these sites along the shore. Meet at Visitor Center and be ready to go at 12 noon.
11:30 – 12:30 and 1 – 2 p.m.	Photos with Ronny Raindrop for kids. Kids can pose for a photo with Ronny Raindrop from the Soil and Water Conservation Service. In addition to the take-home photo, kids will get a free gift.
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Turn of the Century Shoreline Games led by costumed guide for kids.
11:30 – 12:30 and 1:30 – 2:30	An opportunity to Ask the Experts! People are invited to come meet one on one with a representative of federal, state and local agencies involved in the Lake Partnership and ask questions about the lake and current restoration and remediation efforts. Go to Information Tent.

12:30 – 1:30	Come meet and talk with local radio and television garden show host Terry Ettinger who will answer your questions about proper lawn and garden care to protect the lake's watershed and grow healthy plants and lawns. (To be confirmed) Go to Information Tent.
9:00 a.m. and 12 noon	Tours of the Tully Valley Mudboils Two tours will be offered. Each tours takes 3 hours. Interested public should meet in parking lot at McDonald's at Lafayette exit off Route 81 south of the City and will carpool from there. Tours led by Bill Kappel, USGS. Reservations Required – call 607-266-0217 x3013.
12 noon to 5 p.m.	Syracuse Area Kickball Tournament sponsored by the Syracuse Young Professionals and the Syracuse Professional and Recreational Club (SPARC!) To be held on ballfields near the Griffin Visitors' Center. Open to public over 16 years as individuals, not teams. \$5.00 entry fee. Questions?

More fun.....enter for prize drawing to win a dinner cruise for two compliments of MidLakes Navigation by signing up to be on the Partnership mailing list. Get information on the Partnership's next photography contest and see last year's winning entries.