



News Release

For immediate release: May 17, 2005

For further information: Marianne Rodgers, 716-879-4135

***Editor's Notes included**

Fourth Annual Onondaga Lake Day offers free family fun

Syracuse, N.Y. – The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) will hold its fourth annual Onondaga Lake Day event on Saturday, June 4, 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 ‘Come Spend Some Quality Time at the Lake,’ and will feature displays and activities designed for family fun,” said Sue Miller, OLP Outreach Committee member and chair of the event. “Whether you are interested in the quality of the water, the habitat, the fishery, recreational opportunities or the quality role the lake has played in the area’s history, you’ll find something to do or see at Onondaga Lake Day.”

- MORE -

Narrated tram and bicycle tours, a children's scavenger hunt, educational exhibits and displays, and much more will provide enjoyable ways to learn more about the history, environment, and ongoing restoration efforts on 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 valuable community asset."

Representatives of the OLP member agencies and other organizations with an interest in Onondaga Lake will have staffed displays at the event. New this year, local fishing experts will host a fishing clinic for children and adults where they will show participants how to catch the latest popular sport fish, the carp. Other interactive exhibits include "Dr. Wow," played by scientist Steve Gould from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency performing science demonstrations about water and a fun program hosted by Centers for Nature Education offering kids the opportunity to make track molds of animals found around the lake. A special presentation on the reintroduction of Bald Eagles in New York State will take place at 10:00 at the Saint Marie Among the Iroquois Museum led by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Technician Scott VanArsdale with slides of eagles around the state. The U.S.

- MORE -

Geological Survey will also offer two tours of the Tully Valley Mudboils and surrounding area. Reservations are required and must be made by calling Bill Kappel at 607-266-0217, extension 3013.

Guests will also have the opportunity to meet and talk with 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.

“We enjoy seeing families from the community enjoying the lake, and we look forward to meeting those who may have questions or comments on OLP’s current projects and the lake’s habitat and recreational opportunities,” said Lt. Col. Timothy B. Touchette, 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 Onondaga Lake Partnership representatives.

Program Schedule for 4th Annual Onondaga Lake Day
Saturday, June 4, 2005
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

“Come Spend Some Quality Time at the Lake”

Time	Event
10:00 – 3:00 ALL DAY	Exhibits and Displays by Partnership Members and other organizations related to the uses and ecology of the lake, its shoreline and watershed. Learn about the latest projects underway to improve the quality of the lake’s water and habitat. Located under large Exhibit Tent on the lakeside of the new Griffin Visitor Center.
	Fish Tank with Fish from the Lake arranged and staffed by the County’s Department of Water Environment Protection lake monitoring personnel near Exhibit Tent.
	Eco-Info Scavenger Hunt for Kids. Pick up printed guide at Information Tent. Hunt leads kids and their parents to locate interesting information on the lake’s history and ecology. Stops are all within walking distance and those completing the hunt will receive a prize. (Ages 5 yrs. and up)
	Demonstrations of Knot Tying and Anatomy of Sailboat Exhibit at the Syracuse Yacht Club booth in the Exhibit Tent.
	The Amazing Dr. WOW will perform interesting and exciting science demonstrations about water near the EPA booth in the Exhibit Tent. Fun and educational for kids of all ages.
	Special Guided Tours will be offered at the Salt Museum by costumed guides. Let a salt baron tell you about their industry and describe the contents of this one of a kind museum.
	Watch the new Trash Skimmer Boat in operation near the lake marina and pier. This is the vessel that collects floatable trash and debris from the inner harbor and along the lake’s shoreline. During 2004, it collected over 21 tons of trash for the County Department of Water Environment Protection.
10:00 am –1pm	New This Year!!!.....Carp Fishing Clinic for youngsters and adults sponsored by the Partnership’s Fisheries Sub-committee. Local fishing experts will teach participants about tackle, bait and techniques to catch quality-sized carp in Onondaga Lake. Come to the pier near the Salt 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 resorts which once dotted the lake’s shoreline, authored the book, “The Golden Age of Onondaga Lake Resorts.” Fun and informative.
10 :00 am	Special Presentation on the Reintroduction of Bald Eagles in NYS by DEC Wildlife Technician Scott VanArsdale to be given at St. Marie among the Iroquois Museum. This one hour presentation includes over 100 photographs of eagles in NY State. Last winter two bald eagles nested along the Onondaga Lake shore.
11 am – 1 pm	Kids....Make Tracks to the exhibit tent area and join staff from the Centers for Nature Education for a fun hands-on learning experience making a cast of footprints of critters native to the lake area. Get free poster.
11:30 – 12:30 and 1-2 pm	Photos with Ronny Raindrop for kids. Pose for a photo with this special guest from the County Soil and Water Conservation District. Get a take-home photo and a free gift.
12 noon – 2 pm	Unique 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. Bicyclists will visit many spots along the shore trails and learn what took place in the past at these lakeshore sites. Meet at Visitor Center and be ready to go at 12 noon.
1:00 – 2:00 pm	See a great horned owl and hear about their habitat from local wildlife rehabilitator, Jean Soprano. Near Exhibit tent.
11:30, 12:30 and 1:30	One Hour Narrated Tram Tours leaving the Visitor 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.
11:30 – 12:30 and	An opportunity to Ask the Experts! Got one question or many about the lake cleanup efforts? Come to the Information Tent and meet one-on-one with representatives of federal, state and local

1:30 – 2:30	agencies involved in the Lake Partnership and get your questions answered.
Tours at 9 am and 12 noon. Reservations Required!	Unique Tour the Tully Valley mudboils with geologist Bill Kappel of the USGS. Tours will include the valley overlook, site of the '93 mudslide and the mudboil area. Wear field clothes. Not appropriate for small children. Reservations required by calling Bill at 607-266-0217 x3013. Leave name, phone number and tour time you wish to join. Participants will meet behind McDonald's off Rt. 81 in Lafayette.

Free Family Fun Event sponsored by the Onondaga Lake Partnership.