



# News Release

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## Fifth Annual Onondaga Lake Day Offers Free Family Fun

**SYRACUSE, N.Y -- (6/2/06)** --The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) is holding its fifth annual Onondaga Lake Day event on Saturday, June 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Onondaga Lake Park, near the Griffin Visitor Center. This free day of recreational and educational activities celebrating the lake is open to the public. "It also provides a forum for the community to get updated information on reclaiming this beautiful recreational and natural resource we have in our backyard," said Sue Miller, OLP Outreach Committee member and chair of the event.

The theme for this year's event is: *The Lake is getting better – See how YOU can help.* Featured will be displays and activities designed for family fun, such as boat tours, tram rides, and how-to demonstrations and displays. There will be something for everyone to do or see. Representatives of OLP member agencies and other organizations with an interest in Onondaga Lake will be manning displays at the event – many of which will feature take-home items. New for this year: local experts will host a "learn to fish clinic" for children 15 years old and younger. Participants will learn how to cast and actually try their skills at catching and releasing fish from the lake. Equipment will be provided free of charge.

Other interactive exhibits include: "Dr. Wow," played by scientist Steve Gould from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, performing science demonstrations. In addition, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo will display creatures from habitat like Onondaga Lake. A fish tank will also be filled with fish from the lake for children to see and identify. The U.S. Geological Survey will again offer its ever popular tour of the Tully Valley Mudboils and surrounding area. Reservations are required for this, and may 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 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Information Tent.

"We are often asked at Lake Day," said Miller, "how individuals can help with restoration efforts." In addition to taking surveys, the public is encouraged to share their visions for the lake. We will have lots of information on ways the public can help improve the environment of the lake and watershed as well. Lieutenant Colonel Timothy B. Touchette, Commander of the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers and Chair of the OLP Executive Committee added, "We look forward to meeting people from the community who have questions or comments on OLP's current projects and the lake's habitat and recreational opportunities."

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](http://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.

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**\* Notes to editors:**

- ❑ Complete event schedule attached; please feel free to print in its entirety.
- ❑ Photo opportunity and media availability at 12 noon will feature a demonstration by a National Grid forester on how to properly plant a tree. Executive Partners will participate in the tree planting. They include: the Mayor of the city of Syracuse; the Onondaga County Executive; Lieutenant Colonel Touchette; Ken Lynch of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the New York State Attorney General's office.