

The Lake Reporter



JULY 2011 • VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 3

South Bristol Adopts Steep Slopes Law

On June 13, 2011, after years of study, research, debate, changes and effort, the Town of South Bristol amended its Code to add Chapter 148, the Steep Slopes Law. Other changes to the Code included creating a permit to disturb steep slopes, placing the administration of the permit in the hands of the newly created Code Enforcement Officer, and establishing the Code Enforcement Officer's right to issue permits, enter the premises and inspect operations carried out under permits, and pursue such legal actions as necessary to enforce the Town's Code, including regulation of steep slope disturbances.

Property owners who wish to engage in soil disturbing activity are directed to contact the Code Enforcement Officer to determine if the proposed activity is exempt or otherwise doesn't require a Steep Slopes Permit. Exemptions are for agricultural practices, gardening, nature trails, timber harvest, permitted mining, governmental activities, maintenance of existing driveways, commercial ski operations, and in emer-

gency situations. A Steep Slopes Permit is required if any part of the area to be disturbed is equal to or greater than 15% slope and if any of three conditions apply: 1) 1000 square feet or greater of steep slopes disturbance totally within 2000 horizontal feet of Canandaigua Lake, or 2) 2000 square feet or greater of steep slope disturbance totally within 100 horizontal feet of a water course, or 3) 12,000 square feet or greater of steep slopes disturbance in all other areas of the Town of South Bristol.

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**SAVE THIS DATE
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20th, 2011

**STEAMBOAT LANDING
205 Lakeshore Drive, Canandaigua**

Program

8:30 am for coffee and conversation

9 am Annual Meeting

Featuring a Panel of Local Elected Officials

Year in Review

Stewardship and Rohrer Awards

Financial Report

11 am Conclusion

Admission is free,

but a brunch is available at a cost of \$10.

To order a brunch, call (585) 394-5030 or email slewandowski@canandaigualakeassoc.org with the number wanted and contact information for confirmation by Thursday, August 18.

Message From the Chair

By Lynn Thurston

Right out of the gate we want to tip our hats to the Town of South Bristol for passing a Steep Slopes Law on June 13th and to New York State for extending its moratorium on hydrofracking until June 2012, another full year.

You'll read more about South Bristol's new law protecting the lake in this newsletter. We're very grateful to those who worked so hard to get it passed.



Watershed Education Program. This program, now four years old, provides in-class and outdoor learning experience for more than 1600 students a year in the Canandaigua, Naples and Marcus Whitman School Districts. These students, thanks to you, get an opportunity to learn about our watershed and streams by traipsing through streams, collecting water and monitoring its quality. They also get to observe the aquatic insects who share this space with water molecules. This award will hang proudly in our CLWA office.

When the hydrofracking moratorium was extended on June 6th, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver emphasized "it's about erring on the side of caution because there are still too many unknowns about the process that injects chemicals and highly pressurized water into underground rock formations to extract natural gas." Because hydrofracking could potentially threaten vital drinking water supplies, it's important to proceed carefully and wait for the research findings from the EPA and the DEC. Your Association worked hard, along with many others, to influence our government leaders and we're pleased to share this latest news with you.

We won an award. The Canandaigua City School District honored us and our partner, the Canandaigua Watershed Council, with its Friend of Education Award. This award was presented to us on June 24th for the work your membership contributions have allowed us to support through our

Our Marketing Committee has been busy developing ways to present CLWA to the community, especially local businesses and organizations. Through their work, CLWA now has an excellent powerpoint presentation that explains the dangers facing Canandaigua Lake and the programs that CLWA deploys to meet these challenges. So far we have met with several service clubs (Rotary and Kiwanis) and homeowners associations, but we'd like to do MORE! If you belong to a group that would like to learn more about CLWA, please contact us and we'll put you on our calendar for a presentation.

Please find time to attend our Annual Meeting on August 20th from 8:30 - 11:00 AM at Steamboat Landing in Canandaigua. I'll be hosting a panel of our watershed Supervisors and Mayor Polimeni who will be talking about the legislative changes that have occurred and the changes they expect to see in the years ahead in their respective jurisdictions. We've invited Kevin Olvany from the Watershed Council and George Barden from the Watershed Commission to join us as well. Based on what you asked us to work on last year, we'll also be reporting on what we've accomplished and what remains to be done. We'll be seeking your input to make sure our work plan mirrors your priorities. If they've changed, we want to know. Very importantly, we will be introducing you to our new President, Brenda Keith, and our new President-Elect, Jack Dailey. There's information about signing up to attend the annual meeting in the newsletter, and we hope to see you there.

Thank you for continuing to support our efforts and your watershed.

Best Regards,
Lynn Thurston

CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Thurston	President
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Brenda Keith	President-Elect
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Ted Carman, Jack Dailey, Marty DeVinney, John Fayko, Katrina Busch, Wade Sarkis, Rod Smith, Tom Zimmerman	

Watershed Education Program: Nadia Harvieux, Sharon Radak

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The Lake Reporter is published quarterly and distributed free to members and supporters. We invite submissions. Please send them via e-mail to stachu14512@yahoo.com or to PO Box 323, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Letter to the Editor

Private Gains; Social Losses

The recent financial crisis was a perfect storm caused by greed, lax legislation, and questionable financial behaviors. Perhaps the biggest contributors were the synthetic derivatives structured and promoted by investment banks, including collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) and credit default swaps (CDSs). The banks made huge profits promoting the complicated schemes, and when it all came tumbling down they needed rescuing by the Federal government. With the additional collateral damage inflicted by the implosion of these instruments, our national debt has swelled to absorb the impact. It was a clear case of privatizing the gains while socializing the losses.

Another crisis is mounting due to our national addiction to oil and expanding need for energy generation. Unfortunately, we have no coordinated national energy policy to address the mounting problems. In private industry, great efforts are underway to reduce our oil dependency, especially foreign-produced, and some think the answer is beneath our feet – literally. Huge reserves of natural gas lie trapped in shale thousands of feet down in the Finger Lakes, the Southern Tier and Northern Pennsylvania. The gas industry claims there is enough gas to power our country's needs for 100 years, eliminate our dependence on foreign oil, lower energy costs, and reduce our carbon footprint going forward.

The theory sounds great and the industry stands to reap phenomenal gains. The problem lies in getting the gas out of the ground.

The gas industry has perfected a technique of freeing the trapped gas and pumping it to the surface by use of hydraulic fracturing. A toxic mix of chemicals is pumped under very high pressure deep into the earth along horizontal layers of shale. The pressurized fluids shatter the rock to release gas which is captured and brought up the wells. However, it is very unclear to most of us where those chemicals end up and how it can't be harmful to the environment. Tales of environmental tragedies have been recorded in recent documentaries. Groundwater contamination is the common theme. The industry appears to dismiss these calamities as isolated, misrepresented, or fabricated.

The pressure to drill for gas in our region using the hydro-fracking technique is mounting. Can the industry prove the environmental safety of their methods? Will the demand to reduce oil dependence trump the concerns of local citizens? Will gas industry lobbyists hold sway over elected officials under the guise of national interests? Is hydro-fracking the

credit default swap of energy production? And, where does all that toxic mix go when it's left in the earth? A little explanation is in order.

We only have one chance to get this right. If we don't, we'll have immense private gains at the expense of permanent social losses. And there is no bailout for this type of crisis.


Wade Sarkis
Canandaigua

South Bristol Steep Slopes Law

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If a permit is required, a professional plan for erosion control prepared by a NYS-licensed Professional Engineer or Landscape Architect will be submitted. The applicant has six months to begin the authorized work under the permit and twenty-four months to complete the project before the permit expires.

The South Bristol Code Enforcement Officer will be notified when the permitted activities begin, may inspect the job, and may issue a stop work order if he or she determines that 1) the plan is not being followed, 2) the area of disturbance exceeds that planned, 3) no steep slopes permit has been issued, or 4) sediment is leaving the property.

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association commends and thanks the South Bristol Supervisor, Council and Planning Board for their dedication in pursuing a local law that, without imposing undue burdens on property owners, protects natural resources, the town's highways, and neighboring properties. 

CORRECTION

Due to our error in sorting the database that holds all members' names, these members of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association were left off the Roster published in the last issue. Please accept our apologies.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin and Mary Hicks
Valerie Knoblauch
Joyce Marthaller
Pat Reece
Canandaigua Boathouse Owners Association
Ron Milko, Arrowhead Landing Association

Work Completed on RG&E Site on Sucker Brook

By Stephen Lewandowski

Clean-up of the RG&E site at 79 Clark Street in the City of Canandaigua has been completed. As reported in the October 2010 Lake Reporter, this is Phase Two of a project which began in mid-2007. Phase Two began in September, 2010 and was recently completed.

Phase One removed industrial residues and storage tanks, 10,725 tons of impacted soils and 102,000 gallons of water from an area south of Clark Street.

Phase Two demolished an old RG&E building facing Clark Street, excavated and removed impacted soil and water materials from under the building site, drew back and re-shaped the banks on both sides of Sucker Brook, added stay-wall and rip-rap, and re-vegetated the banks with grass and willows.

The contaminants being removed were mostly generated by the Canandaigua Gas Light Company between 1853 and 1913, buried on-site before the company was acquired by RG&E.

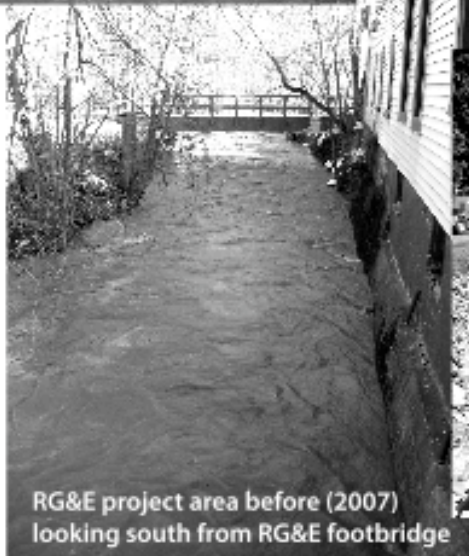
In this several hundred foot stretch south of Clark Street, Sucker Brook now has a consistent bottom width greater than the previous stream, and its capacity to carry stormwater has at least doubled. Though this reach of Sucker Brook now looks bare, as the willow plantings take root and grow out, it will return to being the shaded brook that it was before construction. Importantly, the RG&E property will no longer be a source of petroleum-based contaminants to Sucker Brook and to the lake. **CLWA**



RG&E project area before (2007) looking south from Clark Street



Completed project looking south from Clark Street



RG&E project area before (2007) looking south from RG&E footbridge



Completed project looking south from RG&E footbridge

DRAINS TO LAKE: Girl Scouts Label City Storm Drains

On Saturday, May 7th, ten Girl Scouts, led by Junior Troop 877 Leader Angie Dutcher and assisted by Canandaigua Lake Watershed Educators Nadia Harvieux and Sharon Radak, marked storm drains in the northwest corner of the City of Canandaigua, reminding City residents that curbside structures called drop inlets drain water, and whatever it carries, directly to Sucker Brook and Canandaigua Lake. No treatment, no kidding, it's a straight pipe to the stream then the lake.

The storm drains marked are located on Douglas Drive, Arlington Park, Pickering Place, West Gibson Street and Park Avenue in the City, all in the Sucker Brook subwatershed. The Girl Scouts also picked up trash along the way.

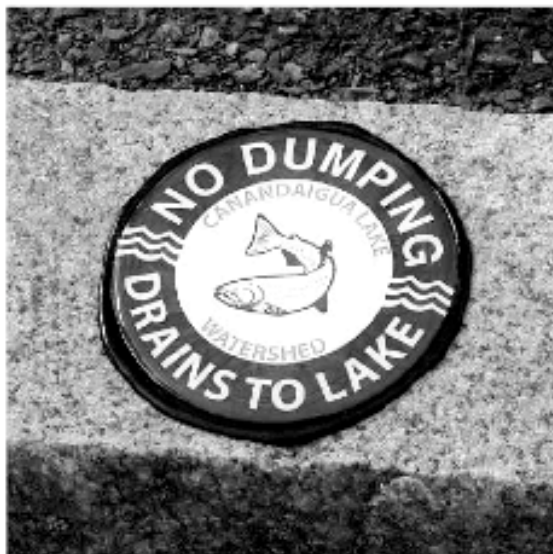
Canandaigua, like many cities, has two types of drainage structures buried under its streets. One set of pipes carries "sanitary waste" from toilets and kitchens to the City's sewage treatment where it is processed and cleaned before the water is released back to the environment.

The other set called "storm drains" carries storm water which runs off roofs, driveways, lawns and streets. This runoff water is captured by drop inlets and drops into large pipes which carry it to a stream or other water body. About two-thirds of the City of Canandaigua's storm water drains to Sucker Brook through dozens of pipes.


The Girl Scouts want us to understand that water running through the storm drain system receives no treatment. If someone mistakenly decides to dump motor oil, paint remnants or pet waste into the City's storm drains, these substances will end up in the lake. For the Girl Scouts, storm drain marking was a learning experience. One said, "I can't believe people would throw their dog waste in the storm drain!" and another, "It was a fun! I like doing projects that I know will help the community."

Troop Leader Dutcher praised the girls, saying, "They are working toward the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can achieve. Working on this project demonstrates the Girl Scout's commitment to helping others, improving her community and becoming the best that she can be."

On Saturday, May 21, a group of Naples Elementary School students marked the storm drains in the Village of Naples with similar goals of educating people in their community about the connection between the storm drains and Canandaigua Lake. Naples Creek, Reservoir Creek, Eelpot Creek, Tannery Creek and Grimes Creek receive the runoff from the Village's storm drain system. That runoff flows about three miles north before it mingles with the waters of Canandaigua Lake near Woodville in South Bristol.



Canandaigua Lake Watershed Educators Nadia Harvieux reminds us that "to protect the lake, we must protect the watershed," and Sharon Radak adds, "These storm drains directly attach our everyday activities in the watershed with the quality of Canandaigua Lake."

The newly designed storm drain markers were purchased by CLWA with a grant from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Project. The grant was awarded for youth service learning projects that improve water quality within the Canandaigua Lake watershed and educates the public about watershed issues. For more information about CLWA's Service Learning Initiatives, please contact the CLWA office at 394-5030. 



CNB Supports Watershed Association

In a brief ceremony at Kershaw Park, Senior Vice President and Branch Manager Chris Keys of Canandaigua National Bank and Trust Company announced the gift of \$1,000 to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

Watershed Association President Lynn Thurston, in accepting the donation, said, "We thank CNB for its foresight. We have asked business leaders in the area to contribute to the Watershed Association because the health of the lake plays such a large part in the local economy."

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association was founded to preserve and protect the lake and its surrounding watershed for future generations by supporting scientific research, sound public policy, and community education.

At the ceremony, watershed consultant Stephen Lewandowski said, "We appreciate the bank's support in protecting the principal economic engine of this region, Canandaigua Lake. The bank recognizes that pollution would endanger real property values and drinking water as well as the amenities that we all enjoy."



CLWA Board member Nadia Harvieux said, "The bank's donation will help to support our Watershed Education program, which works with students in Canandaigua, Naples and Marcus Whitman Schools. Our kids learn how to protect water quality, and they carry that message home, too." **CLWA**

Lake Levels

By Stephen Lewandowski



Smaller gate at Lakeshore Drive regulates flows through Feeder Canal that receives effluent from Canandaigua sewage treatment plant.



Larger gate on main channel regulates flows from Canandaigua Lake into Outlet.

If you only recorded the lake levels every two or three months, you might think this was a good spring. In the previous late April newsletter, we said lake levels were about 8 inches above the summer level of 688.5 mean sea level. And as of this writing in mid-June, lake levels are only about an inch above the summer levels.

But in between the lake went on an excursion into levels in the low 690s (690.25 on May 7 to be exact), and torrential rains in late April and early May gave the whole watershed a good washing. Literally everything that wasn't tied down ended up in the lake. We haven't seen so much debris in years. Docks, boats, poles, boards, tree limbs.

The Ontario County Sheriff issued a month-long boating advisory, but we saw boats on the lake behaving as if it was all-clear.

In several instances while the lake was high, high winds accompanied the storms and wave action damaged a number of waterfront properties.

Now, the lake level is very near ideal, but this spring was a warning about how quickly change can happen. **CLWA**

Interactions Between Groundwater and Surface Water

By Edith Davey

Water—particularly groundwater, as it is mostly unseen—has long been a subject of myth and magic. Wishing wells and magic springs abound in folk tales. As charming as those stories may be, they aren't of much help when a well goes dry, an aquifer becomes contaminated or algae growth fouls a lake.

Groundwater and surface water have traditionally been thought of and managed as though they were separate resources. However, nearly all surface water features (streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and estuaries) interact with ground water. These interactions are varied. In many situations, surface water bodies gain water and solutes (dissolved substances) from groundwater discharging into the lake or stream. Most Finger Lakes are about 10-15% groundwater-sourced according to USGS.

Surface water may likewise be a source of groundwater recharge and may cause changes in groundwater quality if it becomes polluted. As development of land and water resources increases, it is apparent that use or abuse of either of these resources affects the quantity and quality of the other. Withdrawal of water from streams can deplete ground water. Over-pumping of groundwater can deplete water in streams, lakes, or wetlands. Pollution of surface water can cause degradation of groundwater quality and pollution of ground water can degrade surface water.

The nearer to the shoreline a well or wastewater system is located, the more quickly interactions will be noticed. Nutrients in sewage leaking from faulty onsite wastewater

systems will result in aggressive aquatic plant growth near the source or down-current from the leak.

Abandoned wells near the shoreline are a direct conduit to groundwater aquifers and to lake water. Proper closure of abandoned wells should be undertaken to prevent problems.

Effective land and water management requires a clear understanding of the linkages between ground water and surface water as it applies to any given hydrologic setting. Keeping aquifers clean and wastewater systems functioning properly helps keep Canandaigua Lake clean.

SPRING WATER IS NATURALLY PURE, ISN'T IT?

Well ---sorry about that. Spring water usually comes from a shallow source, and shallow sources are far more likely to be contaminated than deeper groundwater sources. As springs are open to the surface, they are more easily contaminated by land uses, runoff and animal intrusions. (How many deer and turkeys roam the woods and how many of them flush their feces?)

A number of years ago, the Ontario County Water Resources Council funded a study of 13 springs known to be used as water sources by members of the public. Analysis of the water by a certified laboratory revealed that only one was potable at that time. Coliform bacteria too numerous to count, high levels of nitrates, giardia lamblia, and E-Coli were found. Persons using a spring as a water source should have a laboratory analysis done at least two to three times a year. Seasonal changes often cause water quality changes. **CLWA**

A WATERSHED

*is a geographic area
bounded by a series of high points
determined by geology*

that delivers surface water and ground water

to a point.



(The Canandaigua Lake watershed is a 174 square mile area that delivers water through numerous streams and rivers to Canandaigua Lake, as defined by a point where water leaves the lake on its north end.)

Update of the Watershed Education Program

By Nadia Harvieux

Over 1,600 students from Marcus Whitman, Naples and Canandaigua participated in watershed workshops and field trips this year as part of CLWA's Watershed Education Program. This program is in its fifth year since CLWA teamed up with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council in 2006 to co-sponsor free watershed focused enrichment to the schools within the Canandaigua Lake watershed area.

So, what are kids teaching their parents, grandparents and friends this summer as they head down to Canandaigua Lake?

~Water that enters the storm drain systems in our cities, towns and villages does NOT get cleaned and eventually flows into Canandaigua Lake.

~The beautiful hills you see around Canandaigua Lake contain many streams, creeks, and direct drainages that carry water (and runoff contaminants) into our lake.

~Phosphorus is a nutrient often found in fertilizers that helps plants grow but can cause an overgrowth of aquatic plants and algae if used improperly.*

~Identifying aquatic insects is a way to determine the relative water quality of a pond or stream.

~The land surrounding Canandaigua Lake is an important part of our watershed. How we use that land directly impacts the water quality of Canandaigua Lake.



Canandaigua City Schools "Friend of Education" Award presented to (l to r) Sharon Radak, Ellen Polimeni of the Watershed Council, Lynn Thurston and Nadia Harvieux of the Watershed Association, on June 24, 2011.

~Every one of us can contribute to the stewardship of our lake by using lake friendly practices.

Remember: Healthy Land ~ Clean Water **CLWA**

*Many phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers are now available, check your local stores.

Make a contribution to acknowledge or commemorate a friend or family member. We will print acknowledgements and memorials in The Lake Reporter.

Consider including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. in your will or estate plan. Provide for the future of Canandaigua Lake by making a new will, modifying your existing will, or by including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. in your evocable trust. Consult with your attorney or financial planner. Here is some sample language for an unrestricted bequest for general purposes: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in New York State, for its general purposes _____ dollars, or _____ percent, or all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate."

Our official name is the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc., and this name should be used on all legal documents. Gifts to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. qualify as charitable contributions to a 501(c)3 organization for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes.



Woodville Eagles

By Mary Ann Banaszewski

On winter mornings, David Guile and I enjoy our morning coffee in the computer room as we watch the birds visiting our feeders. On a cold February weekend in 2006 we caught sight of two large dark birds sitting in the trees beyond the vineyard. Using binoculars, describing what we were seeing, and consulting our bird book, we felt quite sure we had seen two immature bald eagles. We saw them from time to time over the next few days and were quite disappointed when they disappeared.

Two years later, on a mild sunny day in March of 2008, I heard a loud cheeping noise. At first I couldn't locate the source, but eventually realized it was coming from across the road on top of the hill. Using binoculars I saw a large nest with two large birds perched on branches. I was sure these were bald eagles. My suspicions were confirmed as their white heads and tails were visible as they flew. They would fly out of the wetlands and head to the nest with material in their talons. One day one flew so low overhead, I could hear its wings flap. What a thrill!

By May 2008, we never saw any signs of young even though an adult would usually be in the nest. The DEC did a helicopter flyover while checking on nesting eagles. Mike Allen, former Wildlife Technician, had been told of the nest. He relayed it was not a viable nest and described the tree as leaning out over the gully. During the 2008 summer we would often see an eagle sitting in a tree at the south end of Canandaigua Lake. In October and December we had sightings of both of the eagles in and around the nest.

Although we saw an eagle sitting in the nest in February 2009, the check by the DEC in March concluded there was no activity in the nest. We later heard there were eagles nesting in the area of Pinebank and would frequently see one at the south end of the lake in the same tree. We sadly felt we wouldn't have much use for our new telescope as we had heard that once a nest is abandoned, it is rarely used again.

As August ended, we spotted both eagles perched on one of their formerly frequented branches below the nest. During September we saw either one or both of them almost everyday either flying around or perched on the branches below and around the nest. Using the telescope David was able to see blue bands on each of their legs. According to Mike, this indicated they were NYS born and bred. We were hopeful for the future.

In mid December we had a sighting at the nest. By March of 2010 we saw them on the nest on many days with only



one flying off at a time, usually to the wetlands to bring material back. By April we were certain there were eggs in the nest and by the 10th we were sure they had hatched. We were rewarded with seeing two fuzzy eaglet heads in the nest. In May we were able to observe parents bring fish to the nest and we could see the babies were already crow size. By the end of May the parents would leave the nest to perch below and the babies appeared chicken size by our best guess.

In mid June we were able to visibly confirm what we had suspected: there were three eaglets; all perched on different branches above and around the nest. By the end of June we saw the eaglets soaring above the gully. Now they could follow their parents as he/she seemed to seek respite in a tree across the road. The nest activity reminded me of a house full of teenagers with the constant vocalizations of the trio. By August the young were off, though we thought we spotted them from time to time.

December 2010 brought some brief activity to the nest; and we also thought we saw an immature eagle in the back woods. In February 2011 we saw both parents in and around the nest. By the end of March we were sure they were sitting on eggs. This year one egg hatched successfully and the eaglet seemed to grow quickly. It had been a tough spring: cold, wet and windy. We had worried about the stability of the nest and are so happy that another young one will be testing its wings.

David has enjoyed many hours viewing the eagles through the telescope, relaying and sharing their activities with me. We feel so fortunate to be able to have witnessed this amazing cycle in our front yard, so to speak. We have shared this experience with many friends and strangers who seemed to genuinely enjoy seeing the bald eagles. We are hopeful the "Woodville Eagles" will continue their residency in our neighborhood for the foreseeable future. CLWA

CLWA Funds Field Camp for FLCC Students

(For many years, CLWA has assisted community college students with special funding to allow them to attend a week-long Field Camp in the Bristol Hills where the learning experience is notably hands-on. This year, three of these students have given us insight into this special learning experience. Future environmental leaders benefit from this program. –Editor)

Here's a great, big thank you to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association for sponsoring me to participate in the 2011 Field Camp class that was offered May 23–27, 2011. Without this organization's support, it would have been financially difficult for me to attend the class. So thank you, thank you for your continued support of Finger Lakes Community College's Conservation Department!

The things I was able to experience during that week were amazing. I was able to see small mammals trapped humanely and then was able to handle them, birds being banded, and among other things, I learned to identify trees and salamanders. I was able to experience seeing a standing tree be felled, milled into lumber, and then turned into a building: an outhouse for Cummings Nature Center in Naples. I was also able to use equipment like a log splitter, chainsaw, and other woodworking tools that I have never used before.

The Field Camp class gave me a sense of empowerment. We were able to step out of the box of the typical classroom and out of our comfort zones to experience the field of our future careers. To have a class like this available to students at Finger Lakes Community College is really an amazing opportunity. Many of the students that attended were in some way involved with the conservation department, but there were also a handful of students enrolled in other majors. Everyone was welcomed, and it made the experience richer for me, to stand next to students of different levels of knowledge, and all be given the same information. Thanks to the awesome staff and faculty for that!

Many thanks again to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed for sponsoring me for Field Camp, and for their continued support of our Conservation Department. It means a lot to have community support in this way.

Alyssa Johnson

The scholarship for field camp meant a great deal to me—to be able to go and not worry about the money. The scholarship really helped out, and I'm so glad I was able to gain the experiences of field camp.

Field camp was an experience that I would love to be able to have again. There were so many opportunities to do things that I would never be able to do anywhere else. Each day was filled with different experiences from different parts of the field, never learning or doing something over again. I can't even believe the amount of information that I learned in such a short time. Yes, they were long days and for some of them the weather wasn't to our advantage but all in all it was a great week filled with great people and a lot of fun things to do and learn about.

My first day we did aquatics and got to go canoeing and go out on the boat with Bruce Gilman to collect some organisms to bring back and talk about. We also did some tree chopping and woodworking, hiking and salamander hunting, forest ecology, live mammal trapping, and bird-catching. All exciting things I would never be able to do on my own without the great staff and field camp. One of my most memorable things about field camp was the student-teacher relationships and how easy it is to learn from someone that respects you. They know how to have a good time while learning.

My favorite part about field camp besides all the learning experiences was the fun and enjoyment I got from being outside and being hands-on and not sitting in a classroom listening to lectures. On the last day Olympics was a lot of fun and took some good team work which is extremely important when you are in the field and working with others to get a job done!

Going to field camp also helped the students (a younger generation) understand why and how things work together and why we need to keep our waters clean. On the boat after a big rain storm we saw huge sediment plums which cause a lot of things to go wrong in an ecosystem. Many different things that humans do that impact our watershed whether it's intentional or not, and people need to be educated on the impacts of their actions.

Thanks again for the scholarship, it was greatly appreciated, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be involved.

Delicia Crippen

Thank you so much Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association for awarding me the scholarship to go to Conservation Field Camp. You have given me the great opportunity and without your help I would not have been able to attend. At Conservation Field Camp, I was exposed to several fields

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CLWA Funds Field Camp

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in conservation, such as aquatics, forest ecology, wood utilization and construction, and wildlife. Each field was very significant and each increased my knowledge and experience in conservation. For example, in aquatics I was able to do some research in the electro-fishing boat. I learned how to use the equipment and how to identify the species that we caught. In forest ecology, I learned about the many different species of salamanders in New York State and what type of habitat they live in. In addition, I learned several species of trees and their affects in their habitat, such as creating an environment for wildlife. In wood utilization and construction, I learned that forestry is more than cutting down trees to make a profit. It can also preserve the forest, increase the health of the habitat, and provide room for new growth. In wildlife, I learned several different ways to trap and study small mammals and birds. For birds, a mist net was used. For the first time I was able to see a hummingbird up close and feel its heart beat!

Having this experience, I understand the importance to protect our watersheds and environments. In aquatics, I was able to see the beauty of the Honeoye and Canandaigua Lakes, and see the environment they provide. If these lakes were not protected then it would affect all life in the lakes as well as the people who use the watershed for drinking water. Forest ecology, helped me to understand that all things in the forest ecosystem are dependent on each other, from the trees to a Red-back salamander. If the forest was not protected then the whole system would be affected. Wood utilization and construction helps the forest ecosystem by maintaining the growth of the forest, preventing the trees from blocking the sun from the new plant growth on the ground, keeping the forest under control, while presenting a positive outcome for people. In wildlife, I learned how delicate an animal is and how easy it would be to harm them. Our responsibility is to protect not just the animals but their environment and watersheds. Without protection, the whole ecosystem could fall apart, leading to species extinction. For example, if the habitat that the hummingbird was destroyed, it would not survive and its beauty would only be found in history books.

Everything that I learned in Conservation Field Camp intertwines and if a single thread is cut, then it would all fall apart. The watersheds and environment need to be protected not only to save the wildlife, but to save ourselves. Without this experience I would not have understood the importance of protecting watersheds and the environment. Thank you once again for the scholarship. It was worth every moment.


Carrie Preston 

Ring of Fire and Seneca Heritage Day September 3, 2011

The Middlesex Heritage Group and CLWA will cooperate on a day full of events for Seneca Heritage Day, marking the end of the summer cottage season.

At 1:30 in the afternoon of the 3rd, at the Overackers Corners School (Rte. 364 in Middlesex at the corner of North Vine Valley Road) Seneca Heritage Day will commemorate the original inhabitants of the area, also known as the Haudenosaunee, or People of the Longhouse. At 2, Peter Jemison, Site Manager of the Ganondagan State Historic Site and member of the Heron Clan, will speak on the origins of the Seneca nation.

There will also be storytelling by Chris Holder, music by the Crooked Lake Fiddlers and a pork barbeque and other refreshments. The event is free but tickets must be purchased for the barbeque.

In the evening, a signal fire atop Bare Hill will be lit at 9pm, which will indicate to cottagers around the lake to light their flares for the Ring of Fire. Local flare sales benefit the CLWA. This year, because of concerns about the phosphorus (nutrient) content of flares, cottagers are encouraged to place an aluminum pie-plate under the flare to catch the ashes and to dispose of the ashes safely (on land, rather than in the water). Pie-plates will be available at area locations selling flares. 



Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
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Be a Friend of Canandaigua Lake

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has a strong base of supporters and a significant history of Protecting Canandaigua Lake and its watershed. Because of numerous and complex challenges, we need YOUR support.

Please return this form (or a copy of it) with your contribution. Remember your contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Your 2012 membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, committee participation and reports, special alerts on crucial issues, invitations to events and the Annual Meeting, but most important, you will know you're doing YOUR PART to protect this precious resource.

Yes, please process my 2012 tax-deductible membership in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

- _____ \$25 **Supporter** (student rate)
- _____ \$35 **Guardian**
- _____ \$100 **Lake Leader** (your gift at this level helps to pay for water testing)
- _____ \$250 **Watershed Steward** (says it all)
- _____ \$1000 **Benefactor** (your gift at this level supports our education program)

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