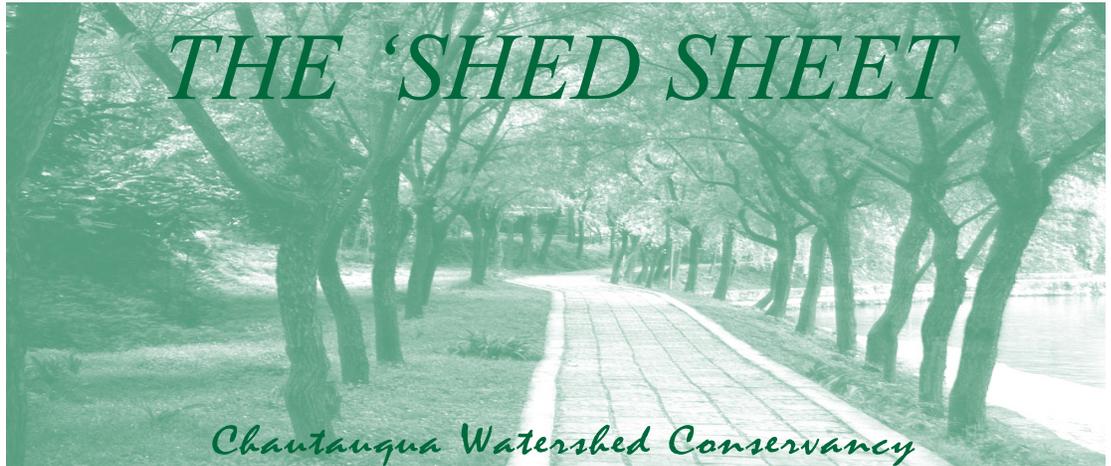




FALL
2008



CWC TO PRESERVE LAND BEHIND FAIRMOUNT PLAZA

The CWC is set to purchase **14 acres of land behind Fairmount Plaza** (in West Ellicott, across from Sam’s Club) from the Rae-Shel Corporation. This forested site contains numerous springs and a wetland floodplain stream corridor. The CWC is acquiring this land to conserve this stream corridor floodplain wetland, which receives stormwater runoff from neighborhoods and provides floodwater storage, flood water volume control and filtration to reduce downstream flooding and reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Burtis Bay of Chautauqua Lake. The forests on the site help absorb and filter rainfall landing on the site, thus contributing to the health of the lake. Fairmount Avenue sometimes floods downstream from this site, where this stream’s natural floodplain has been filled for transportation and commercial purposes.

According to Executive Director John Jablonski III, “The Conservancy is excited to add this property to its Chautauqua Lake Watershed Preserve System, which will **contribute clean waters to our lake**. Much of this site was slated for commercial development a few years ago, and the Conservancy was very concerned about the water quality impacts that development would have had on Burtis Bay, which already suffers from the most degraded conditions as a result of the urbanization of that bay’s surrounding watershed. He added, “CWC would like to conserve additional sites along this stream or wetland in Ellicott, Lakewood and Busti” and encouraged owners of these sites to contact him.

Much of the cost of this project will be funded from a grant through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation designated by New York State Senator Catharine M. Young, and the CWC is extremely grateful for her assistance with this conservation project. The CWC still needs additional donations, however, to cover the ownership costs of maintaining and protecting this site for the benefit of the public, costs which are not eligible to be paid through the state grant. CWC intends to manage this site as a nature preserve open to the public during daylight hours and will establish a hiking trail there. Persons who desire to contribute toward this project or who wish to serve as a preserve steward to clean up litter and/or maintain this preserve are asked to contact CWC. ❁



Above left: A wetland-floodplain watercourse within the Fairmount Avenue preserve. Above right: CWC Executive Director John Jablonski, CWC Board President Art Webster, State Senator Cathy Young, preserve neighbor Allan Hendrickson, and CWC Board Director Bob Lannon at the preserve.

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Chautauqua
Watershed
Conservancy

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The 'Shed Sheet newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and is issued in January, April, July and October.

Founded in 1990, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Federal Tax Code whose mission is to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region by promoting best land management practices and conserving local, undeveloped shoreline and wetland areas.

The CWC relies on the support of generous individuals, businesses and civic organizations to achieve its mission. All donations to the CWC are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and are greatly appreciated.

A Message from the President

by Arthur D. Webster



Dear Friends,

I am sure you will agree that the overall condition of Chautauqua Lake this past summer was the best in many years. The water was clear, the weeds were not as thick, and we had very little of that mossy algae and green-blue scum on the surface. It is likely that many natural forces combined to produce these positive lake conditions.

It is also quite possible that another factor played a role. Public awareness about watershed problems that affect the lake has grown in recent years. More and more people are getting the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's message that a lake is, indeed, a reflection of conditions in its watershed and that each one of us can affect those conditions. Perhaps you read one of our water quality ads? Perhaps you saw one of our "Don't Feed the Weeds!" signs? Perhaps you have attended one of our educational lectures or workshops? Many of you have begun using phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergents, have created buffer strips, and are more careful in your use of fertilizers and herbicides. Contractors on most larger construction sites are now using erosion control practices, thus reducing the load of sediments and nutrients reaching the lake. And I was pleased to recently learn that Turftenders, a popular lawn treatment company, has phased out the use of phosphorous in its fertilizers.

We have been harming the lake faster than it can heal itself, and that simply cannot go on. We are making progress, but there is still much work to be done. That is why it is so urgent to continue to support and encourage the work of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy with financial contributions. Perhaps now more than ever!

The message of the CWC Board of Directors and I is simple and straightforward. If you are already a Conservancy member, we thank you and ask that you please continue your support. If you have not yet supported the work of the Conservancy with a financial contribution, we ask that you please do so soon.



"We have been harming the lake faster than it can heal itself, and that simply cannot go on."



Each fall, at the start of CWC's new fiscal year, we ask for your support. There is a form in this and every issue of *The 'Shed Sheet* that shows the various levels of commitment you can make. Working together we can make a positive difference. And, remember, **every gift** will make a difference.

The Conservancy has a committed and energetic Board of Directors and a capable Executive Director and staff. All of the ingredients for the success of the mission of the CWC are in place. And we need each one of you to help!



A Message from the Executive Director

by John Jablonski III



We live in uncertain times—the premises we have taken for granted in the past are being shaken. Our nation's strong economy, which has produced great opportunity and abundance over decades, is foundering. The "stable" climate that allowed exponential growth in human populations may already be destabilized with the potential for rapid changes in weather and climate as we now know them.

In the face of this, I would like to convey two thoughts to you. First, ***regardless of these changes, you and I and our families still need clean and abundant waters.*** Second, ***our waters and watersheds are more important than ever in sustaining our local economy.*** Each of us, no matter our age, requires clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. We are 90% water at birth, and 70% water most of our lives. Whatever is in our water becomes part of us. The residents of Chautauqua Institution get their water from the lake. Westfield residents get their water from the Chautauqua Creek watershed. Jamestown BPU customers and most area residents outside of villages get their water from the ground. If you have ever traveled to a lesser-developed nation, you know that you can't even brush your teeth with tap water. Water is the most basic, essential element for all life on earth. Drink bad water... you get sick. Children who swallow lake or stream water with high levels of certain coliform or salmonella bacteria can quickly get sick. Drink waters contaminated with organic solvents, industrial chemicals, heavy metals or pesticides ... and members of your family risk getting cancer years later. Swim in over-fertilized waters with blooms of certain blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) ... and you risk exposure to neurotoxins.



Healthy families need healthy water in a healthy environment. Healthy waters flow from healthy landscapes.

Where does *your* drinking water come from? Have a well? What is uphill from your well? If moist forest is replaced by homes, yards, driveways and ditches in your watershed, the volume of groundwater supplying your well may drop, and your well may go dry during spells of drought. Costly consequences could result. Are you or your neighbors changing their oil and dumping it on the ground? Are you or your neighbors washing paint brushes and dumping the solvents on the ground? Do you use chlorine bleach or other strong cleaners in your house? Does it go in your drain and septic system and then back into your well water? I recently observed a flock of majestic Tundra Swans feeding in Arnold's Bay. The swans had returned to this site as their ancestors had for probably thousands of years. But instead of a natural, wooded shoreline to greet them, a bulldozed, scarred shoreline was there instead. How about your favorite place to fish, swim, bird watch, or hike? How about your well water? Is it safe?

Watershed conservation and stewardship is important — not just to lakeshore property owners, but to all! The CWC advocates and is implementing a comprehensive, pro-active strategy to conserve and enhance the features of our watersheds that collect, store, filter and deliver clean waters to our lakes, streams and groundwaters. We are conserving the most important and irreplaceable features of our watersheds. We educate individuals, businesses, government and agencies to implement practices to conserve and enhance our watersheds and waterways. As we approach our 19th year of operation, we can report that substantial progress has been made. We have conserved the key lake sites we initially hoped to conserve, erosion control measures are now being implemented at most larger excavation sites, and most Chautauqua Lake municipalities understand the need to control erosion and are cooperating to implement erosion controls on public works projects. Over the last three years, the county has funded the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission to begin undertaking several activities that the CWC has advocated for since CWC's inception. These county-funded programs augment the work of the CWC and CLA. They don't replace the need for your private support of this work.

Good and bad economic times come and go, but we need clean waters to sustain our bodies, our families, and our economy every day! On behalf of the directors and staff of the CWC, ***I encourage you to join the CWC or renew your membership today so that we can continue to be a driving force for the protection, stewardship and enhancement of our waters and watersheds in 2009 and for future generations.*** Help us continue to implement pro-active actions with permanent positive results. Thank you for your commitment to these efforts in these challenging times!



John Jablonski III

Meet Your New Watershed Steward



Greetings! My name is Betsy Hite, and I am the new Watershed Steward! My role, summarized, is to both educate and offer technical assistance to various audiences within Chautauqua County, with emphasis on those who collectively affect large acreage of our watershed, including area residents, business owners, landscape managers, government officials and other decision-makers. The position is a partnership between the CWC and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County with funding provided by the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. I grew up in Chautauqua County and spent as much time as I could in the outdoors. Morning walks in the woods with my dad, gardening with my mom and grandmother, swimming in the lake, and playing outside with my brothers and sisters were just a few of the catalysts for my appreciation of nature and my love of the outdoors.

In 1998, I graduated from SUNY Fredonia with dual certification in Earth Science and Biology Education. While at Fredonia, I also spent summers leading hiking and backpacking trips throughout New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. After graduation, I headed to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I discovered a “new form” of teaching when I was hired as the Director of the BioVan Outreach Program at the Rio Grande Zoo. The mobile exhibit, a 35-foot long converted horse trailer, depicted the Rio Grande from its headwaters in the mountains to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. Representative live plants and animals were used to teach about the various ecosystems along the Rio Grande and the importance of water conservation. What a fantastic and eye-opening opportunity!

In June of 2000, I returned to Western New York when a teaching position at my alma mater (Panama Central School) became available. I felt it was the perfect time, and I was ready to start sharing my experiences and knowledge with future generations. I also longed for the green, the trees, and the waters of Chautauqua County. For the next 7 years, I taught Biology and Advanced Biology and coached the Envirothon Team, Junior High and JV Girls Basketball teams, and co-ed Varsity Tennis. I also had the pleasure of advising the Class of 2007 during their four years of high school.

During the 2007-08 school year, however, I suffered a devastating loss when one of the most inspiring and influential persons in my life, my grandmother, succumbed to cancer. Before I was hired as the Watershed Steward, I would have described her as an incredible woman who appreciated the simplistic beauty of nature, lived in harmony with the Earth, and made it a goal to learn something new every day. Now I know a term that summarizes these characteristics: **STEWARDSHIP**. My grandmother was a natural and true Steward to the Environment, teaching and inspiring by example throughout her life.

“Our actions affect the quality of Chautauqua Lake...the health of our lake and our watershed depends on the stewardship of every resident and visitor of Chautauqua County!”

In my new role as Watershed Steward, I, too, hope to inspire and assist in making changes in the way we live within our watershed in order to protect Chautauqua Lake and the surrounding land for future generations. Stewardship can take many forms, such as recycling, planting trees, composting, voting, keeping leaves out of storm drains, positioning downspouts toward your lawn, installing rain gardens and rain barrels, participating in beach clean-ups and stream restorations, and minimizing soil erosion. Understanding that the cumulative impact of our actions affect the quality of Chautauqua Lake, even if we don't live directly on it, is the first step of Stewardship.

The new watershed stewardship education program offers community outreach in the form of presentations, demonstrations, informational brochures, public service announcements, environmental awareness events, and coordination of environmental projects for groups (i.e., scouts, clubs, associations). If you would like to schedule a presentation or would like more information on stewardship projects, please **call me at 499-7454 or e-mail me at emh92@cornell.edu**. The health of our lake and our watershed depends on the stewardship of every resident and visitor of Chautauqua County!



News from the Chautauqua Lake Association

Lake Organizations Distinguished

There are many organizations in our area that foster environmental stewardship for Chautauqua Lake. Prominent among them are the Chautauqua Lake Association, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, and the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. I would like to briefly explain the missions, functions and funding of each one and why they need to work together to provide the greatest benefit to Chautauqua Lake, area residents, and the environment.



The Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA) – is a not-for-profit organization that relies on funds from private donations, foundations and grants as well as town, village, state and county funding administered through the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. The primary lake maintenance organization for more than 60 years, the CLA manages the lake's aquatic plants through mechanical harvesting and provides lake clean-up, such as the removal of trees and other debris posing safety hazards after major storms and the removal of dead vegetation which accumulates along the shore. The CLA's mission is to provide effective and efficient lake maintenance services for the benefit of all Chautauqua Lake users. It also promotes and facilitates a healthy and natural lake environment via ongoing scientific studies of Chautauqua Lake and its surrounding ecosystem through contracts with Cornell University Research Ponds and Cornell's aquatic scientist, Robert Johnson. Perhaps the best example of the CLA's flexibility in responding to the lake's needs occurred during the 2005 carp die-off, the publicity of which threatened to destroy the summer season on the lake. The CLA recognized the need for immediate action and focused all its efforts on the removal of more than 50,000 dead carp! The clean up was completed in time to save the July 4th weekend and summer recreation season. More recently, the CLA completed another successful summer season in which the lake was maintained in tremendous condition for the enjoyment of everyone. Next year, the CLA intends to expand its efforts by implementing a dredging program at the mouths of the inlets surrounding the lake.



The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (CWC) – is a county-wide, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region. It, too, relies on funding from private donations, grants and foundations. One of its primary objectives is to conserve key land sites to better ensure that the water quality and ecological health of Chautauqua's natural environments are preserved. CWC also educates watershed residents, businesses, organizations and municipalities on ways to reduce water pollution from fertilizers, eroded soils, discarded household materials, and pet wastes which fuel abundant algae and lake plant growth.



The Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) – is a county organization under the auspices of Chautauqua County's Planning Department, funded by the County's bed tax, and established in 2005 by the County Legislature for the preparation, coordination, management, and implementation of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Plan. It also provides oversight of county budget appropriations for lake management activities. The CLMC is made up of nine area organizations, each of which has a vested interest in the quality of Chautauqua Lake: the CLA, the CWC, the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, Save Our Lake Environment, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau, Chautauqua County Federation of Sportsmen, and the Chautauqua County Conference of Mayors and Chautauqua County Supervisors. Among its achievements is the formation of an herbicide recommendation committee to investigate and study the use and effects of herbicides on the lake, the allocation of funding to the CWC for a watershed steward and help with a grant from the Sheldon Foundation to purchase a new Hydro-Mate for the CLA.

These organizations serve the public by implementing activities, executing plans and promoting scientific research for the benefit and sustainability of Chautauqua Lake. Their main goal is to preserve and protect the quality and beauty of one of the county's most valuable assets — our lake. It is imperative that these organizations support and communicate with one another to achieve their goals and objectives. We need the collective cooperation, interaction and collaboration of each member of every group to keep our lake at its natural best today, tomorrow and in the future. As the CLA's motto states, *a clean lake is everyone's business!*



Sincerely,
Tad Wright, CLA President



Stormwater—Where Does It Go?

by Watershed Steward Betsy Hite

Did you know that stormwater runoff is the #1 source of pollution of our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans? It seems strange to think that stormwater is a dangerous compound, but unfortunately it's true. Stormwater pollutants arrive through an odd cooperation of natural forces and unwise cultural practices. Airborne pollutants (generated from factories, cars, etc.) hitch rides on raindrops and snowflakes, fall to the surface, merge with pollutants already on the ground, enter our waterways and wreak havoc on landscapes and aquatic ecosystems. The following excerpt documents the journey of stormwater and demonstrates the hydrologic connection between the yard, the street, the storm sewer, the stream and the lake. By sharing this unique perspective of stormwater runoff and impervious surfaces, I hope you gain a new understanding of the issues that threaten our watersheds.

“Trickles merge into rivulets, rivulets give way to streams, streams swell into rivers, transforming enormous volume into powerful flow energy. With increasing strength, the stormwater surge strips the lawn of phosphorous and nitrogen breaking it down and carrying it away. Pesticide residues are next to be purged from the artificial landscape, helping to form a deadly tide. A cargo of eroded soil clouds the water with fine particles called silt.

On the concrete walk, the pace quickens, joining a steady flow off the driveway surging with a sludge of grass clippings and a film of detergents used to clean the family car. Several floating cigarette butts mark the river's progress as it runs off the walk and pours onto the asphalt. Here, the rush of rain encounters a fresh pile of dog excrement. At first the mound is resistant, but the current gradually undermines it, carrying away the various bacteria, viruses and nutrients that make their home in animal intestines.

Briefly, the runoff pools behind the lip of the curb. As it ponds, it pauses. Below it, grease, motor oil and other secretions, which have spent the past week congealing over a vast herd of dirt and grit, spring to life. Soon the familiar petroleum rainbow snakes its way along the gutter ready to strike and poison at the astounding rate of 1,000,000,000 parts fresh water to 1 part oil.

The skies unfurl now in sheets of water. Global atmospheric pollution piles onto local pollutants already on the ground constructing a massive flood of filthy water. Near the end of the block, a thick mat of leaves ripe with nutrients forms a dam along the gutter. Smooth concrete channels supply speed and muscle to the torrent until, like a wire brush, it smashes the leaf dam. Great chunks of necessary habitat are swallowed by the downstream current, sliding away toward a network of strategically engineered and placed storm drains. Disappearing are the last remnants of a self-sustaining, self-replicating ecosystem.

Suddenly, the river disappears, detouring downward several feet into the dank world of rotting, fetid underground pipes. It races now, the area allotted for its passage narrowing as the volume increases. In just a few moments, this curtain of impurity leaps from 4 foot wide tubes into nearby lakes and streams, inflicting its wrath on the aquatic life throughout.

Stream riffles, the tiny nooks where insects find shelter, disappear under layers of silt. Deep, oxygen-rich pools fill with contaminated dirt. The streamside forest that provides cooling overhead cover for frogs, salamanders, turtles and other wildlife, is destroyed by the short-lived stormwater flood. Without the canopy, water temperatures rise by up to 10°.

As the tons of leaf and lawn litter begin to fall apart at the end of the stormwater pipe, they absorb large amounts of oxygen from the water. Many invertebrate members of the aquatic food chain – immature nymphs of the stone fly, mayfly, and caddis fly – cannot withstand the loss of refuge and the warmer, oxygen-poor water. Unable to reproduce, their extinction seals the doom of sensitive fish species like trout and sculpin. New species, warm-water, pollution – tolerant ones, such as tubeworms, biting flies, carp and snails take over.

Heaps of polluted material are deposited hundreds of feet out into the lake. The excess phosphorus is taken up by algae that suddenly “bloom” into large surface scabs that blanket shallow areas, preventing sunlight from reaching the bottom.

Stormwater continued...

The silty shallows are easily disturbed by wave action, and the suspended particles create constant turbidity. Gamefish like pike, bass and walleye, that are sight hunters, avoid the murky water. Clouds of silt rain down on clusters of walleye eggs smothering them, in the only stretch of spawning gravel left on the lake bed.

At the beach, a scientist fills a beaker with lake water to determine amounts of fecal coliform, disease pathogens found in feces of various mammals, present. The allowable water quality standard is exceeded a hundredfold! She leaves the beach for her truck, retrieving a sign: *Warning! Contaminated Water. Beach Closed by Order of the Health Dept.*"

By understanding the connection among precipitation, runoff and pollution, we can understand what steps to take to reduce our impact on and restore health to our watersheds. Here are a few simple steps that everyone can take on the path to Watershed Stewardship. Remember, ***individual behaviors have a CUMMULATIVE IMPACT!***

- Take motor oil, paint and other household chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites
- Use mulch or groundcover to keep water from running off your lawn or garden
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and towards lawns or gardens
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of streets and storm drains
- Wash your car on the lawn or take it to a professional car wash
- Use nature to fertilize your lawn ~ mow fallen leaves
- Scoop the poop ~ pick up after your pets
- Naturalize lawns and shoreline areas
- When fueling, don't overfill tanks
- Use phosphate-free detergents



[The previous is adapted from "Recipes for Clean Water: A Homeowner's Stormwater Survival Guide" which was written and published through the Clean Water Task Force of Minneapolis, MN. 1999]



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

Yes! I want to help preserve the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region.

I want to: become a new member of CWC
 renew my annual CWC membership

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

Individual/Family Memberships:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$20 - \$49 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$50 - \$199 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$200 - \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$500 - \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Partner \$1,000 - \$4,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Legacy \$5,000+ |

Business/Corporate Memberships:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader \$500 - \$2,499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner \$2,500+ |
|--|---|---|

- My tax-deductible check is enclosed
- Please charge \$ _____ to my MasterCard/Visa/American Express/Discover

Card Number

Expiration

Signature

Please remit with your contribution to: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, 413 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

A Water Quality & Ecological Assessment of Chautauqua Lake

Lake Scientist Fred Lubnow, Ph.D. Addresses CWC Members & Staff at CWC's Annual Meeting and Calls for Lake & Watershed Projects

Fred Lubnow, Ph.D., Director of the Aquatics Programs for Princeton Hydro, presented a program entitled, "*A Water Quality & Ecological Assessment of Chautauqua Lake*" to the members and staff of CWC at the CWC's annual meeting at Webb's Captain's Table on July 20th. (This presentation is available on DVD for loan from the CWC.) The following morning, CWC held a roundtable presentation by Dr. Lubnow for local agency staff and county water quality task force members. Some key points he presented from the water quality studies his firm performed in August and October 2007 on behalf of the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission are summarized here.

Dr. Lubnow noted that abundant blue-green algae conditions in Chautauqua Lake in 2007 indicated that excessive amounts of the plant nutrient phosphorus were present in the lake. Chemical tests confirmed phosphorus concentrations well above those that produce algae blooms. He said that phosphorus inputs from the watershed to the lake must be effectively controlled to reduce the algae blooms. He also reported that Eurasian watermilfoil, the dominant non-native nuisance plant in the lake, is promoted by disturbances in the watershed where soil is eroded and sediments are deposited into the lake. He suggested that, based on studies on other watersheds, tributary stream bank erosion is likely to be the largest source of sediments to Chautauqua Lake.

Dr. Lubnow recommended that both structural and non-structural practices be implemented to aggressively reduce the amount of phosphorus (nutrients) and sediments (soil) reaching the lake. Structural practices could include stream bank stabilization, farm conservation measures and storm water pollution treatment systems. Non-structural practices include banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizers and automatic dishwasher detergents, geese control and educational activities. He noted that a typical bag of lawn fertilizer (42 pounds) contains 1.3 pounds of phosphorus (P)—enough to grow 1,400 pounds of algae! He also cited a Minnesota study which showed that banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizers reduced phosphorus loading by 12% to 18%.

A fundamental conclusion of his presentation was that, if lake communities can effectively minimize watershed disturbances, and thus minimize soil erosion and lake sedimentation, then milfoil abundance would be controlled. He noted that, in addition to stabilizing streams, shoreline disturbance and sediments from stormwater drains need to be effectively contained. He presented these strategies:

Proposed In-Lake Strategy for Chautauqua Lake (Aquatic Plants):

- Continue to mechanically harvest
- Continue to monitor populations of invertebrate grazers
- Develop an Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- Use the Plan and other factors to determine where the use of chemicals may be feasible
- Conduct a dredging feasibility study, including selective bathymetric survey



Photographs of blue-green algae scum conditions experienced on Chautauqua Lake in 2007 (left) and of a stormwater treatment system (right).

*Assessment article continued...***Proposed In-Lake Strategy for Chautauqua Lake (Algae):**

- For algal control, focus on the link between pollutant loading and algal growth
- This means watershed control measures must be implemented
- If the goal is to obtain state and federal funding to implement projects, a site specific Watershed Restoration Plan needs to be developed

Watershed Restoration Plan:

- Develop a plan that addresses the nine elements of a Restoration Plan (US EPA)
- Quantify sources of pollutants
- Categorize/rank the sources of pollutants
- Develop targeted goals to attain desirable conditions
- Identify projects that can contribute toward reaching targeted goals

The CWC can report that several of the above recommendations are underway by various area organizations. The **Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's activities have conserved over 1.8 miles of natural shoreline on Chautauqua Lake and its Outlet**, and its educational programs have succeeded in more than doubling the sales of Ecover phosphate-free automatic dishwashing detergent sales in 2007 and a continued steady increase in 2008 at Wegmans (i.e., sales of cleaning products with "P" declined).

The US Army Corps of Engineers has initiated an aquatic management planning process for Chautauqua Lake with funding secured through U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, and the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) is presently reviewing proposals from consultants to complete a watershed management plan, utilizing NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) funds matched with local funding and in-kind contributions. The CLMC is also working with the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), CWC and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County (CCECC) on stream and lakeshore erosion control plantings. The CLMC, CCSWCD and CWC have also initiated erosion control demonstration practices on several road construction, ditch maintenance and public works projects partnering with municipalities in the Chautauqua Lake watershed. The county/CLMC anticipates seeking proposals from qualified consultants to undertake erosion and sedimentation control studies on Dewittville Creek in the Town of Chautauqua and Crescent Creek in the Town of Busti utilizing awarded State LWRP and County funding in January.



(All photographs on page 8 and 9 are courtesy of Fred Lubnow, Ph.D./Princeton Hydro.)

Re-vegetating and stabilizing shorelines and streambanks with "buffer strips" of native vegetation is effective in stopping lake sedimentation and in filtering pollutants.





~ *Special Thank You Notes* ~

Welcome New Members!

Jane J. Griffiths
Dave & Cindy Shuff

Gerald & Christine Siess
Robin S. Turnquist

Recent Support from Business & Club Members

Andriaccio's Family Restaurant, Inc.	Jamestown Savings Bank
Carlson's Boat Livery	Johnny's Lunch
Chautauqua Bird, Tree and Garden Club	Lakewood Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Chautauqua County Federation of Sportsmen	Mayshark Builders
Chautauqua Property Owners Association	Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club
Chautauqua Shores Improvement Association, Inc.	Prendergast Point Property Owners Association
Chautauqua Women's Club	Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua
Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo	Kwik Solutions
Hanson Sign Companies	Ruskhill Vineyards & Nursery
Hollyloft Ski & Bike	Tolman Engineering, PLLC
Home Depot	Viking Trader Gift Shop
Howard Hanna Holt Real Estate/Holt Associates	Webb's Year Round Resort
J & D Realty Investments LTD	Wooglin, Inc.

Memorials & Honorariums

In memory of Dean R. Hanby from the children of Genevieve Hanby Etzel
(Imogene, Wayne, Bob, Lois, Janice & Elaine)

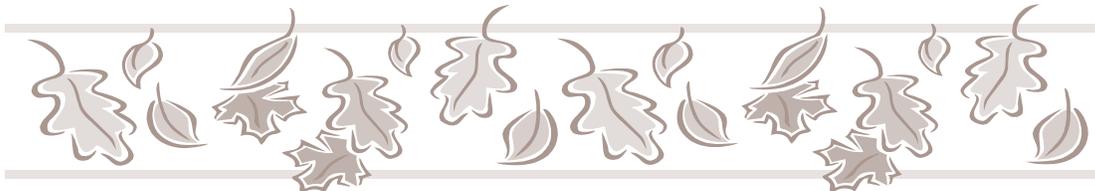
In memory of Dean R. Hanby from Save Our Trees

In memory of Dean R. Hanby from Dawne Sohn & Pixie Sohne

In memory of Dean R. Hanby from Brandon, Jennifer & Brandon (Jr.) Vivian

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. David Howard's 60th wedding anniversary from James & Virginia Cummings

In memory of Robert Woodbury from Douglas Ronsheim & Maureen Emerling

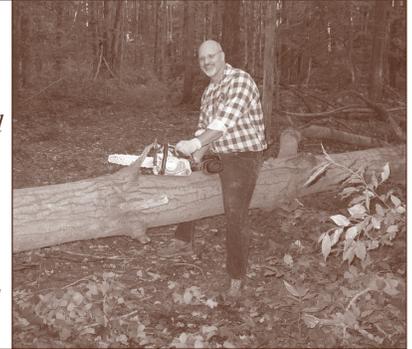


~ *Volunteer Thank You Notes* ~

Preserve Work

An extra special thank you goes out to CWC member and volunteer **Dr. David Smith** for helping to improve the trails at the Conservancy's Dobbins Woods Preserve by cutting and clearing downed trees across and along the trails at the preserve. The Dobbins Woods Preserve is located on Bly Hill Road, Ashville, NY, 1/2 mile west of Route 394 and is open to the public for hiking and picnicking. For more details about the preserve, including directions, log on to the CWC website at www.chautauquawatershed.org. ❀

Pictured at right: CWC member and volunteer David Smith clears a fallen tree from a walking path at the CWC's Dobbins Woods preserve.



Outlet Greenway Preserve Kiosk



The informational kiosk for the Conservancy's Outlet Greenway Preserve on Fluvanna Avenue in Jamestown (NY) has been built! CWC would like to give special thanks to **The Home Depot** in Lakewood (NY) and its store manager **Asa White** for donating the kiosk's building materials, to **BOCES-Fredonia** and Construction Technology instructor **Chris Braidich** for constructing the kiosk, and to **Mayshark Builders** and its president **Jim Mayshark** for transporting it. Mayshark

Builders has also generously volunteered to store the kiosk until it can be installed at the preserve next spring. CWC would also like to give a special thank you to board director **Bill Locke** for his assistance in coordinating this project. ❀



Fall Mailings

A special thank you to the following volunteers for their help with CWC's annual fall membership mailing:

**Allisen Carey Ann Hesson Bob Karbacka Bob Lannon
John Rappole Bob & Pat Sundell David Todd & Family**



An extra special
thank you
from CWC to
Cynthia Bracken.

In Memoriam

Dean Hanby, leader of Save Our Trees, a grass roots citizen organization, which fought to save the majestic maple trees of Mayville and Westfield from the process of the NYS Department of Transportation's realignment and reconstruction of Route 394 from Westfield through Mayville, passed away on August 16, 2008, at age 71. Dean moved to Mayville, NY, from Beaver Falls, PA, in 1984, ran the Village Inn Bed and Breakfast for 22 years and worked on the Chautauqua Institution building and grounds crew for 12 years. He recognized that the character of our region was very special and worked tirelessly to organize his neighbors and take on the transportation bureaucracy to save the beauty of the communities he so loved. The CWC, recognizing that the Save Our Trees' efforts furthered the scenic, ecological and water quality purposes of the mission of the CWC, served as the non-profit partner to handle their donations. After all expenses incurred by Save Our Trees were paid, Dean directed the remaining funds to go to support the work of the CWC. We remember Dean as a friend and neighbor who demonstrated that **one person can make a very positive impact** for the betterment of one's community. In recognition of his work, Dean received Community Service Awards from the Mayville-Chautauqua and Chautauqua County Chambers of Commerce in 2006. We thank Dean's family and friends for their generosity in making contributions to the CWC in his memory. ❀



SIGN OF THE TIMES

This summer and fall you may have seen CWC's two-sided "*Don't Feed the Weeds!*" signs (pictured at right) displayed in area lawns. The Conservancy created these lawn signs to help spread the message that what each of us does in the watershed (on land) can have an affect on our area waterways. For example, using dishwasher detergents or fertilizers containing phosphate adds nutrients to the lake, which, in turn, increases the growth of algae and nuisance plants (i.e., weeds!) in the lake.

Conservancy board director **Dr. David Todd** proposed the idea for the signs (and donated them as well) after hearing of a similar project near a lake in New Jersey. The Conservancy received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the sign campaign, and an article about the signs even made the front page of *The Post Journal!* The CWC hopes to make these signs available again in the spring of 2009. 

**DON'T FEED
THE WEEDS!**

• PLANT WATERFRONT BUFFERS

• SCOOP THE POOP



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
www.chautauquawatershed.org
info@chautauquawatershed.org
664-2166

**DON'T FEED
THE WEEDS!**

USE ONLY PHOSPHATE-FREE

• LAWN FERTILIZER

• DISHWASHING DETERGENTS



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
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Best Wishes for the New Year!

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



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Preserving and enhancing the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region.