



Summer 2011

THE 'SHED SHEET

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

LOOMIS GOOSE CREEK WETLAND PRESERVE ESTABLISHED

The CWC has purchased 30 acres of land between Ashville Bay Marina, Goose Creek, Chautauqua Lake and Route 394 to establish the Loomis Goose Creek Wetland Preserve.



CWC's Loomis Goose Creek Wetland Preserve
(Aerial photograph from www.chautauquagis.com)

This property, which possesses the third largest wetland on Chautauqua Lake (450' of lake frontage and adjacent waters at the mouth of Goose Creek) is one of the most important migratory bird habitats on the lake supporting Chautauqua Lake's designation as a "Statewide Important Bird Area" by Audubon New York. Tundra Swans are one of the many species that frequent the waters adjacent to this site during fall and spring migrations. The site is also known to be habitat for the Pied-billed Grebe, a state-listed threatened species. This wetland floodplain provides the last filter of debris for Goose Creek floodwaters before they reach Chautauqua Lake. The sellers of this property participated in the federal Wetland Reserve Program to place much of the site under a permanent federal conservation easement before selling it to the CWC at a reduced cost, and in 2012, the CWC will proceed with a Wetland Reserve Program wetlands restoration project on the site. The CWC's share of the conservation costs of this site are funded through a grant from the Jessie Smith

Darrah Fund, 14 individual donations and a wetlands acquisition grant administered through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. CWC will undertake a baseline biological survey of the site, develop a management plan, install an informational kiosk, and develop a small area of off-street parking for a small number of vehicles. The site is presently open to the public for bird watching, fishing, paddling and nature study. 🌿

AND NEXT.....THE WELLS BAY LAKESHORE FOREST

With the Loomis Goose Creek Wetland Preserve now established, the Conservancy is focusing its *Last Mile Campaign* efforts on raising the last \$80,000 to conserve the Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest, a 3.5-acre wild forest (with 210 feet of lakeshore) located in the town of North Harmony. Your help is needed! Please contact the CWC office or any board director to make a contribution and/or to discuss hosting a reception in your home or neighborhood to help us reach this goal. You can also join us for a tour of this site at 12:30 PM on Saturday, July 30th! 🌿



Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan Summary Inside!



Chautauqua
Watershed
Conservancy

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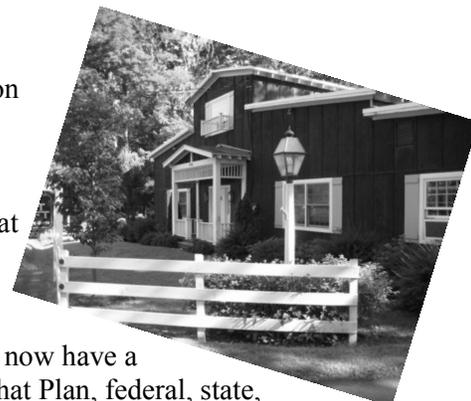
Deborah Naybor,
Conservationist

The 'Shed Sheet newsletter is a publication of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1990 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.

Message from the Leadership

Dear Friends,

First, we would like to take a moment to thank Indulge Salon Spa, Kohl Orthodontics, Mazza Chautauqua Cellars and Wegmans for sponsoring our summer events. We had wonderful attendance at our Member Appreciation Event, which was graciously hosted by Bonnie and Warren Beyer at The Art Loft in Mayville (pictured at right). We are grateful to everyone who took time on that afternoon to join us.



As many of you know, Chautauqua Lake area communities now have a new Watershed Management Plan. But now that we have that Plan, federal, state, county and municipal funding streams are simultaneously suffering from severe cutbacks. What does this mean for the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan and, consequently, the maintenance of a healthy lake and watershed? Some of your local non-profit organizations – the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, the Chautauqua Lake Association, and the Soil and Water Conservation District – are being called upon to raise private funds to help implement the Plan. CWC has responded by using your membership donations to seek and obtain grants totaling \$90,000 to establish a two-year Chautauqua Watersheds Conservation Stewardship Program. This has enabled CWC to hire two part-time conservationists to help educate the community on the recommendations in the Plan and begin working with landowners to implement landscaping activities that will restore the natural watershed collection, storage and filtration functions that help to deliver clean and abundant ground and surface waters.

The CWC has also made recent progress with the Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest project – we only need to raise an additional \$80,000 to permanently conserve this unique forested wetland habitat! We thank those of you who have already generously contributed to this project and ask others to please join with us to save this site.

The CWC has accomplished much and continues to conserve the most important sites to protect the ecology, hydrology, water quality and scenic beauty of the Chautauqua region. It continues to kindle, facilitate and lead actions to prevent pollution, change land practices and empower landowners, businesses, governments and institutions to become better stewards of the features of our landscape that affect our region's water quality, ecology, economy and, ultimately, the physical and mental well-being of each of us and our families. We have been able to do all this with the generosity and support from members and volunteers like you, and we thank each of you for your support and help. Enjoy your summer and, remember, be a good steward of the lake and watershed! 🌳

Yours in Stewardship,



Michael K. Lyons,
Board President



John Jablonski III,
Executive Director



HELP SAVE RESOURCES!

Sign up to get The 'Shed Sheet electronically —
email us at info@chautauquawatershed.org

CWC Adds Conservationists To Help You

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, in collaboration with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission, is pleased to announce the availability of the services of two newly hired conservationists (Jane Conroe and Deb Naybor) to assist land owners, agencies and municipalities with the implementation of the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan.



*Pictured above are the CWC's new conservationists:
Deb Naybor (left) and Jane Conroe (right)*

Jane Conroe has lived on Chautauqua Lake since moving to the area in 1978. She was a public school science educator for many years and has served the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Jamestown Audubon Society and the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission in volunteer capacities. Her formal training comes in chemistry and physics, with her experience as a volunteer water quality sampler adding to her concern for the lake.

Deb Naybor has been a professional land surveyor in Western New York for more than 20 years and is an adjunct professor at the University of Buffalo in both engineering and geography. She has worked on water quality and agricultural issues with poor families around the world in her volunteer efforts to increase sustainability and reduce poverty.

Healthy lakes and streams flow from healthy, naturally functioning watersheds. Jane recently stated that "In recent years, we have heard many responsible individuals ask what they could do to help the lake and the watershed, but their good intentions were often met with unexpected challenges. We hope to gather available resources to assist property owners with actions that not only improve their own land but also help the lake and its water quality. Anyone who has seen their property washed away by fast flowing creeks or pounding lake waves knows that significant additional help is needed. We hope to provide the needed technical advice."

Jane and Deb will be available to help land owners, agencies and municipalities with the following projects:

- improving yards for wildlife habitat, water quality functions, etc., on the shoreline and/or in the watershed;
- improving landscaping (including naturalizing your stream bank or lakeshore) in order to help better collect, store, filter and deliver clean water to our lakes, streams and other ground waters;
- finding conservation options to permanently protect the conservation value/s of properties now and in perpetuity;
- dealing with shoreline and/or stream bank erosion; and
- hosting presentations on the recommendations of the Watershed Management Plan to an organization, neighborhood association or other group.

For free help with these watershed landscaping and conservation projects, protection issues and/or educational presentations, call Jane at 716-665-0721 or contact her at conrojane68@gmail.com. ❁



(Financial support for this project comes from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and New York State Conservation Partnership Program in collaboration with the Land Trust Alliance and State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and Chautauqua County.)

Return Your Yard to Forest

Do you notice how many tree saplings sprout in your lawn each spring? In our region, when we clear trees or maintain our lawns, we must do battle to keep our yards from returning to forest. Instead of fighting the ecology of forest succession each spring, why not allow it? Let the seeds and nuts of those trees native to your yard sprout and grow!



Why let them grow? Why plant as many trees as possible in your yard or business property? Because the benefits are innumerable. Trees can add thousands of dollars to the value of your property. The abundance of mature trees is one of the reasons that the Chautauqua Institution community is so appealing. Mature trees also provide shade for your home, business and parking lots and make living and working more comfortable. Computer simulations using standard building and tree configurations for cities across the U.S. indicate that shade from a single well-placed, mature tree reduces annual air conditioning use 2 to 8% and peak cooling demand 2 to 10%. The ambient air temperature difference between an urban heat island and a vegetated area can be as much as 10 degrees fahrenheit. The temperature measured directly above man-made surfaces can be as much as 25 degrees fahrenheit hotter than the air temperature beneath a forested area. Studies have indicated that business districts with ample trees are also more attractive to shoppers because they look better, are more pleasing to patrons and are cooler and more comfortable during the summer. Studies have also

indicated that viewing a setting abundant with trees can have a calming effect after stressful incidents and that those neighborhoods rich with tree life provide multiple psychological benefits to their residents. Simply put, trees make us feel better.

Trees can also provide many pollution and storm water control benefits too. Ever notice that you can stand under a tree to stay out of the rain? That's because leafy canopies of trees actually trap and absorb rainwater. Trees as well as shrubs can also control soil erosion and do so in two ways. First, their branches and foliage absorb and deflect the energy of raindrops before they reach the ground. Second, their roots effectively hold the soil in place. **It is very important to leave streamside and lakeshore trees and shrubs in place to avoid soil erosion when developing waterfront lots.** The roots of trees are also very effective at absorbing nutrients and fertilizers before they reach waterways.

So how can you begin returning your yard to forest? Start with conserving your large trees—they are irreplaceable in your lifetime. Have an experienced arborist trim dead branches and branches that are a threat to buildings. You can assist the growth of wild saplings with the purchase and installation of tree tubes to protect them from rabbits, deer and rodents. Visit local nurseries to select appropriate native trees to plant for your soil conditions. 

WANT MORE INFORMATION? CHECK OUT SOME OF THESE WEBSITES:



Tree Link: <http://www.treelink.org/>

American Forests: <http://www.americanforests.org/>

National Agroforestry Center: <http://www.unl.edu/nac/workingtrees.htm>

(see the publication "Working Trees for Water Quality")

Cornell University's Gardening Resources: <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/>

(see the "trees and shrubs" section)

CWC's Plant Information: <http://www.chautauquawatershed.org/plantinfo.htm>

WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS?

Check out the Conservation Fund's Carbon Zero Calculator at <https://gozero.conservationfund.org/calc/household>. It can also show you how to offset your personal carbon-dioxide production through the planting of trees.

National Lakes Assessment

*What do we know about the overall health of lakes across the country?
Has there ever been a comprehensive study of all of the nation's lakes?*

While there hasn't been a study of *all* the lakes in the United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a "National Lakes Assessment" (NLA) which was the first-ever baseline study of the condition of the nation's lakes. A total of 1,028 lakes were sampled as part of the study.

WHAT DID THEY FIND OUT?

The NLA found that 56% of the nation's lakes support healthy biological communities when compared to the least disturbed sites. Another 21% of lakes are in fair condition, and 22% are in poor condition. Poor habitat conditions along the lakeshore and high levels of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus are the most significant stressors of those assessed in the survey. The NLA also conducted the first-ever national study of algal toxins in lakes. Microcystin (a toxin that can harm humans, pets and wildlife) was found to be present in about 1/3 of lakes and at levels of concern in about 1% of lakes. Mercury concentrations in game fish exceed health-based limits in 49% of lakes, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are found at potential levels of concern in 17% of lakes.



Maintaining natural vegetation around lakefront property is crucial to water quality and the biological health of lakes. Photo courtesy Janis Bowman.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LAKE?

Reducing nutrient input and returning shorelines to a more natural state will greatly benefit all lakes. While there has been much focus on nutrients in the last several decades, shorelines have only recently begun to be a major focus of lake management. The NLA results show that **DEGRADED SHORELINE HABITAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STRESSOR TO POOR BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.**

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about the National Lakes Assessment, log on to http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/lakesurvey_index.cfm where you will find the full National Lakes Assessment report as well as a National Lakes Assessment fact sheet. Log on to <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/shoreland.cfm> for numerous links, articles and other publications on lakeshore protection and restoration. Log on to <http://www.nysfola.org/> for more information on lakes in New York State.

(Adopted from/reprinted with permission from the March 2011 issue of NYSFOLA's newsletter *WaterWorks*.) 

YES! I want to help conserve the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Friend \$20 - \$49 Steward \$50 - \$199 Contributor \$200 - \$499 Supporter \$500 - \$999 Partner \$1,000+

My check is enclosed Please charge \$_____ to my Visa/MC/American Express/Discover:

_____/_____/_____

Credit Card Number

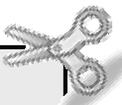
Expiration

Sec. Code

Signature



Please remit with your contribution to the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, 413 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY, 14701, or donate online via PayPal at www.chautauquawatershed.org.





Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
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 info@chautauquawatershed.org
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We're almost there!
 We are at 77% of our membership/annual fund goal for our fiscal year ending 9/30! Please continue to give generously... your support is vital to conservation. With your help, we can do it!
THANK YOU!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Monday, July 25th
 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Emerald Ash Borer in NYS & What You Can Do — a presentation featuring Forest Entomologist Mark C. Whitmore, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University. Presentation to be held at the Frank Bratt Agricultural Center, 3542 Turner Road, Jamestown. Open to all free of charge.

Saturday, July 30th
 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest Tour — join JCC Biology Professor and CWC board director Becky Nystrom and CWC executive director John Jablonski for a free tour of CWC's proposed Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest preserve in North Harmony. Meet in the lane just south of the National Grid driveway (near Victoria Road) north of Stow.

Wednesday, August 3rd
 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Chautauqua Lake Shoreline and In-Lake Plants: Working for a Healthy Combination — a presentation by Robert Johnson of Racine-Johnson and Scott Kishbaugh of the Department of Environmental Conservation with a question and answer session to follow. Held at the Jane A. Gross Opera Center, 4757 Route 394, Chautauqua. Open to all free of charge.

Saturday, August 13th
 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Lake Day/Marina Day — a day of fun and education at Chautauqua Marina in Mayville with a variety of lake and watershed-related activities and presentations, including a presentation and planting demonstration entitled "Shoreline Plantings and More: How to Clean the Lake Naturally" from 1:30-3:00 PM. Please register for the presentation by emailing debiclementi@aol.com. Open to all free of charge.



*For more information, call 664-2166 or visit www.chautauquawatershed.org
 To register for an event, call 664-2166 or email info@chautauquawatershed.org*

