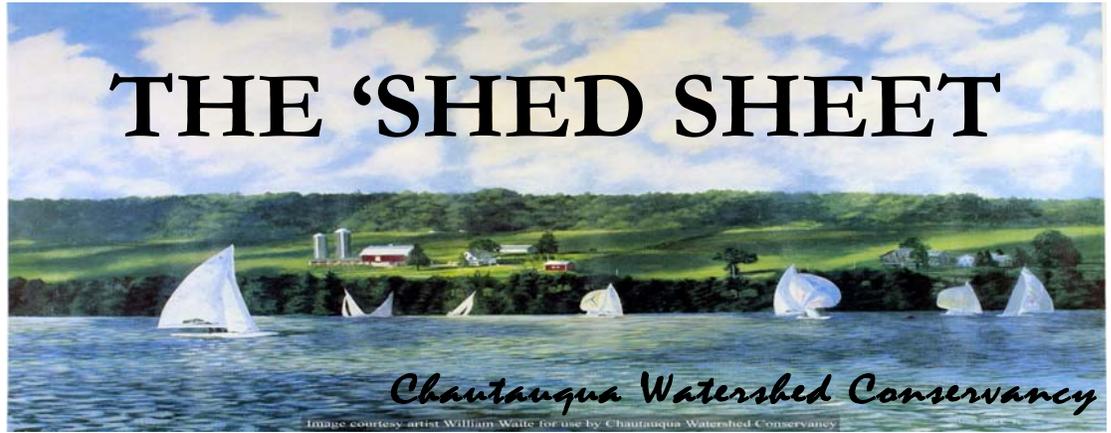




SPRING
2007



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

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

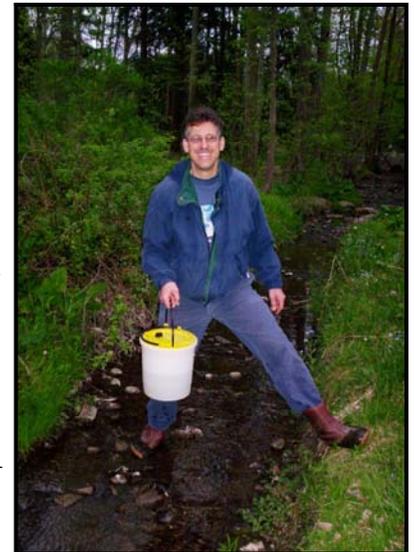
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Conservancy Begins Stream Erosion Control Project

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is conducting a stream and watershed assessment on a stream and its tributaries in the Town of Busti and Village of Lakewood which collect water from the areas of Baker Street Extension, Southwestern Drive, Sunset Drive, Mall Boulevard and Fairmount Avenue and then flow into Chautauqua Lake at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

Eurasian watermilfoil, a major nuisance plant in Chautauqua Lake, and the target of hundreds of thousands of dollars in control efforts annually, is a major problem in the area of the lake directly fed by this stream. This plant grows most abundantly in fresh deposits of sediments and nutrients, which annually accumulate from this stream. Chautauqua Lake's plants and algae blooms are also fed by excessive amounts of soils, nutrients and fertilizers reaching the lake via lawns, parking lots, rooftops, streets and storm drains.



John Jablonski, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, and scientist Gregg Antemann of Carolina Wetlands Services, received permission from landowners to begin surveying this stream and its tributaries on March 21st and 22nd to identify and evaluate: 1) stream bank erosion sites and their severity; 2) sources of excessive storm water or nutrients; and 3) opportunities for stream and watershed enhancements to reduce storm water discharge to streams, reduce erosion, stabilize stream banks, control flooding and increase groundwater recharge. *(Continued on page 5)*



CWC Extends Welcome & Congratulations

The CWC is pleased to announce the addition of **Cathy Spangenburg** to its staff. Cathy has accepted the newly created position of Public Relations & Development Director. Welcome aboard Cathy!

The Conservancy is also pleased to announce the promotion of current CWC staff member **Jill Desborough** to the position of Director of Operations. Congratulations Jill!

CWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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CWC STAFF:

John Jablonski III, *Executive Director*
 Cathy Spangenburg, *Public Relations &
 Development Director*
 Jill R. Desborough, *Director of Operations*
 Priscilla Titus, *Ecologist*

The mission of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region.

Founded in 1990, the CWC is the leading grass-roots organization in the Chautauqua region advocating the best management practices across its watersheds and actively conserving undeveloped shorelines and ecologically sensitive wetland sites.

The CWC is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that relies exclusively on the support of generous individuals to govern its operations and educational endeavors. Gifts of cash or securities are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and are deeply appreciated.

A Message from the President

By *Arthur D. Webster*



Dear Friends,

Since our last *'Shed Sheet*, the days at the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy have been busy and filled with what I like to call dealing with the growing pains of a vital and expanding organization. The CWC!

At the beginning of the year, our Outreach Coordinator, Tina Cordner, submitted her resignation, effective January 31st, to accept a position in the development department of the Chautauqua Foundation of Chautauqua Institution. We were sorry to see Tina go but are grateful for all she did in her tenure with the CWC and wish her well in her new undertakings.

In considering Tina's departure and the growth and change of the CWC over the past few years, the Board took a closer look at our staffing structure and decided that some reconfiguration of responsibilities was needed.

Jill Desborough, who had been working as an Administrative Assistant for the CWC, has now become our Director of Operations. In addition to graduating *Summa Cum Laude* from Southern New Hampshire University, she also brings with her 15 years of administrative and legal assistant experience. In her new position with us, Jill will be responsible for bookkeeping, fund management, financial reporting, database and records management, donor relations, board of director administration, program and event planning and execution, and volunteer coordination. She will also serve as editor of *The 'Shed Sheet*. We are happy and fortunate to have Jill on board with us.

The Board also reconfigured the Outreach Coordinator position so that it is now the position of Public Relations and Development Director. We have been fortunate to find an excellent person for that position in Cathy Spangenburg. In addition to graduating *Magna Cum Laude* from Wells College, Cathy comes to CWC with more than 18 years of experience working in and with non-profit organizations and educational programs. For the past 8 years, she managed her own consulting business and worked with organizations on strategic planning and raising resources to fund their efforts. She has had great success in helping organizations to grow in their organizational and financial effectiveness.

Cathy's major responsibilities with the CWC will be to deliver our stewardship education message to the public in order to obtain their personal commitment to being stewards of the watershed and supporting the work of the Conservancy. She will be designing and delivering development and fundraising activities and materials; staffing the Board's Public Support Committee; developing and delivering the marketing of CWC's mission; writing proposals and grant requests; developing and implementing a corporate gift strategy and business partnership program; and working with neighborhood groups, clubs, businesses and service

organizations to gain their support of the activities and mission of the CWC. There is more to her job than I have listed, but I think you get an idea of the extent of Cathy's position.

The Directors are to be commended for their thorough, thoughtful and creative work on these staffing changes. As you can see, much time and effort were expended in developing these solutions which will serve CWC well for some time.

~~~

On another note entirely, the CWC continues to work with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC), the group established by the Chautauqua County Legislature nearly two years ago to develop a management plan for the lake and watershed. Much of the work the CLMC will be doing directly relates to our primary mission at the CWC.

Recently, the CLMC engaged an organization called Carolina Wetland Services to act as "Lake Coordinator." This group will be responsible for implementing the fourteen-part 2007 Action Plan developed by the CLMC and approved and funded by the county legislature in October 2006. The CLMC is currently in the process of working out the details of its relationship with Carolina Wetlands Services.

The extent to which the CWC will work with Carolina Wetland Services to deliver the items in the 2007 Action Plan is unclear at this point, but our Executive Director, John Jablonski, and I will be working with personnel from Carolina Wetland Services to clarify our relationship and determine how we can work together in the most effective manner. More information will be forthcoming in future *'Shed Sheets*.

~~~

In closing, please know that all of us on the Board of Directors consider it a privilege to be part of the CWC. Of course, we can do nothing without the continued support of our members.....*people like you!* We look forward to the months ahead as we work more closely with Jill and Cathy, and we will do everything we can to support our Executive Director in his efforts. Each of us pledge ourselves to remain focused on our mission as the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.



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A Message from the Executive Director

By John Jablonski III

Warm wishes to all of you for a healthy, safe and enjoyable spring! We thank each of you who has contributed to our 2006-2007 membership campaign! Nearly all of our program funding comes from your membership donations and private grants.



The Conservancy team has recently endured significant transitions in staffing. Tina Cordner, our Outreach Coordinator for the past two years, resigned in January to join the Chautauqua Foundation development staff. We appreciate all that Tina did to promote the organization, improve our financial record keeping, craft insightful and attractive newsletters and publications, organize events and volunteers, and recruit donors. She played an integral role in our successes and growth over the past two years. She is missed, but we wish her success in her new endeavor.

This change also brings the opportunity to build an even stronger team. With Jill Desborough promoted to Director of Operations and the hiring of Cathy Spangenburg as our Public Relations and Development Director, we are pleased to be moving forward with a minimum of disruption in carrying out our mission.

With the help of CWC Ecologist Priscilla Titus, we held a successful Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters training workshop in February, which featured Sara Baker Michalak, a local native plant grower, and John Munro, an experienced expert in stream, wetland and waterfront ecological restorations. The main objective of this workshop was to train professional landscapers and groundskeepers how to design and install lakeshore and streamside plantings to enhance and restore watershed functions and habitats to yards and grounds. In other words, we provided training to the professionals so that they can offer these services to you and I to help us improve our properties to better collect, store and filter the waters that land on and pass through our properties on its way down hill. Some of us have an eroding stream bank or shoreline that is contributing to lake sedimentation. This program provided several techniques for stabilizing these situations using a combination of native plantings and structural means. Sara showed us how beautiful native plants can be and why using local native plants is so important to the survival of a variety of insects and animals.

In March, I, along with Carolina Wetland Services' scientist Gregg Antemann and Conservancy volunteers Kim Sherwood and Wade Morris, began evaluating stream and watershed sites in the Sunset Valley/Chautauqua Mall area to determine opportunities for stream and watershed erosion control, restoration, and pollution prevention projects. We really appreciated the excellent cooperation we received from Town of Busti leaders and watershed landowners. We learned a great deal from the owners and managers of these sites and opened constructive dialogues to exchange ideas on addressing their erosion and flooding problems as we look to implement practices to reduce soil and nutrients reaching the lake. It was great to be out in the watershed during the major spring snowmelt and see how this stream and watershed function. We look forward to receiving the recommendations generated by this project and continuing to work with watershed landowners to implement as many of them as possible.

The Conservancy continues to pursue the conservation of several Chautauqua Lake waterfront sites and is working with conservation-minded landowners to explore donations of important wetlands, stream corridor and unique forestland sites to the Conservancy.

The Conservancy has also made significant progress in making people aware of the root causes of our lakes' plant, algae and sedimentation problems. We are seeing a growing willingness on the part of local government officials, landowners and homeowners to take action on those activities under our jurisdiction, whether it is to cut down or avoid fertilizer use on our yard, to require better erosion control and storm water management on development projects in our communities, or to commit sensitive habitats or waterfront sites for conservation. We must each do our part in watershed protection. It is a good feeling to see such changes taking place.

Thank you for your commitment to better watersheds and waters! 

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Jablonski III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erosion Control Project Cont.

Mr. Jablonski stated, "We identified several potential sites for stream and floodplain restoration, stream buffer enhancement, erosion control, storm water storage, re-forestation and watershed enhancement projects. We will continue field work in April and May and discuss potential projects with landowners for their consideration later this spring. The Conservancy will seek their partnership in implementing these conservation projects to control runoff and erosion and in addressing those conditions which promote nuisance lake plant growth. The success of this project will depend upon the voluntary participation of watershed landowners." He added, "This project is funded by private membership donations to the Conservancy. No county government funds are involved."

Kathy Sullivan, Supervisor of the Town of Busti, sent a letter to landowners in this watershed encouraging them to allow access to their properties for the study. She stated, "The Town of Busti is making every effort to address the root causes of Chautauqua Lake's sedimentation, algae and plant problems." Ms. Sullivan added, "The Town of Busti Highway Department, under the leadership of Mr. Gene Johnson, has begun implementing erosion control projects on its drainage system and is participating on this project."

Landowners with watercourses tributary to this stream or nearby streams who would like to have their lands evaluated for potential erosion control, storm water storage, watershed conservation or stream restoration projects or other Conservancy programs may contact Mr. Jablonski at 664-2166 or chautwsh@netsync.net.



A major bank failure on the stream contributing significant sediments to the stream system.



An opportune site on the stream for bank stabilization erosion control.

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-Muhatma Ghandi

What To Do With Your Yard This Spring

Spring is here! It is time to rediscover our lawns after they have been blanketed with snow for the last several months. How we manage our yards is important to the water quality of the nearest lake or stream. We all live in a watershed!

We know that the plant nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen are both suspected of contributing to the excessive plant and algae conditions in our area lakes. In many lakes, phosphorus is seen as the more important culprit to control, but Chautauqua Lake research data and conditions indicate that we probably need to effectively reduce the delivery of both into the Lake if we want to see clearer waters and fewer dense plant beds.

Back to managing and maintaining our lawns... the Conservancy has the following recommendations to make your yard more wildlife and lake friendly:

- If you have not been fertilizing your lawn, don't start.
- If you have been intensively fertilizing your lawn, cut back to just one fall application of a *nitrogen-only* fertilizer.
- Use an organic, slow-release nitrogen fertilizer over a water soluble (i.e., "attach it to your hose") fertilizer.
- For most sites, the only time to use a fertilizer containing phosphorus is when you plant new grass seed.
- If you feel you must improve your lawn, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension to get it tested and see what it really needs... it may need lime to adjust its pH more than it needs phosphorus.
- Don't use combination fertilizer-pesticide (i.e., "weed & feed") products.
- **ONLY** treat your lawn with herbicides or pesticides if you document a weed or pest infestation that is at a level threatening to, as put in the Great Lakes, Great Lawns information, "annihilate" your lawn. If you are currently doing annual pesticide treatments, you may only need to treat for grubs or broadleaf weeds every three or four years, if at all. Studies in Monroe County, NY, indicated that 80% of lawns do not have a grub problem and that the 20% that do only have it in isolated areas, requiring only spot treatment for control.
- If you use a professional lawn treatment company, don't subscribe to their standard multiple fertilizer-pesticide regimen. Instead, ask for just one fall treatment of a nitrogen-only fertilization and make them show you your lawn's pest problems *before* subscribing to any herbicide or pesticide treatment. Some companies now offer less-intensive, more "environmentally-friendly" lawn care regimens.
- If you are planting seed, fine fescues (red fescue, chewings fescue, hard fescue) require the least nitrogen (1-2 pounds/acre annually) and are most shade tolerant. According to expert Warren Schultz in The Chemical Free Lawn, "They are excellent for over-seeding poor lawns to improve turf quality." These may be the most appropriate low maintenance lawn grasses for our region. Bluegrass will die if it is not fertilized because it has high nitrogen requirements (3-4 pounds/acre annually).
- Get your mower blade sharpened now and re-sharpen it every few weeks. A dull blade wastes gasoline and increases moisture loss and disease.
- Mow your grass at 3" or higher to allow it to shade out weeds. Cut no more than 1/3 of the blade length.
- Leave clippings on your lawn. Disposing of them robs your lawn of nutrients, and what you remove will

have to be replaced by fertilizers. Mulching mowers remove the aesthetic desire to bag clippings. Don't let your landscape service bag and remove your clippings!

- Fix bare spots by reseeding with grasses suited to the site. Improve soils and mulch with straw or burlap. Look for places to remove turf and add beds of native plants — wildflowers, native grasses, shrubs and lots of trees! 

Where to get more information:
 Cornell Lawn Gardening Resources: <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/lawn/index.html>
 Great Lakes, Great Lawns: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/Monroe/environment/glg.html>
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County: (716) 664-9602

Musky Map of Chautauqua Lake



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EVERYDAY WAYS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED:

We all live in a watershed, an area of land where all surface water and groundwater drains to a common outlet point — like a river, lake or bay. YOU, regardless of where you live, are in a watershed. As a result, what you do on land will affect the water resources of your watershed. It affects not only the waters used for boating, fishing and swimming in your area.....but also the waters used for industry, irrigation and even drinking and cooking.

Fortunately, there are simple, everyday things each one of us can do to help protect our watersheds and waterways. The following are just some of the many ways in which YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. And remember — every little bit helps!

USE PHOSPHATE-FREE DISHWASHING DETERGENT: Dishwasher detergents with phosphate add nutrients to the lake, which increases the growth of algae and nuisance plants — i.e., weeds!

KEEP STORMWATER CLEAN: Storm drains don't go to a treatment plant — they discharge directly into the closest waterway! Keep motor oil, pesticides and other toxic substances out of storm drains. Likewise, don't sweep your lawn clippings or leaves into storm drains.

MINIMIZE WHAT YOU FERTILIZE: A “less is more” approach to lawn fertilizers will help keep nutrients out of our streams and lakes. Remember.....too many nutrients increase the growth of algae and nuisance plants! Use only as much fertilizer as a soil test indicates you need.

SCOOP THE POOP: Pet waste left out in the yard washes away when it rains and is a major contributor to bacteria problems in local streams. Protect our streams by properly disposing of pet waste.

LET IT GROW: Lakes and streams need natural vegetation along their banks to prevent erosion, to ensure fish habitat and to protect water quality. Help streams stay clean by letting vegetation grow! Landscape your yard with native plants. Not only will native plants use less water than grass, they will attract birds and butterflies to your yard too!

HOLD BACK THE FLOOD: Impervious surfaces such as pavements and roofs cause rain to run off rapidly, making floods more severe and contributing to erosion that creates shallower lakes and more nuisance plant growth. Minimize runoff by creating a rain garden or capturing it in a rain barrel. Use the stored water for your garden and other landscaping.

CONSERVE WATER: Reduce the volume of wastewater from your home. Use low-flow faucets, showers, and toilets; take shorter showers; repair leaky faucets, toilets or pumps; run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full; wash your car and water your lawn only when necessary.

VOICE YOUR OPINION: Call, email or write your elected officials with your concerns. Ask them to protect water resources, prohibit development in floodplains, and adopt and enforce erosion, sediment and stormwater pollution controls.



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Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

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

An Update on Invasive Species Issues Facing Western New York and a Preliminary Plan to Address Them

By Ecologist Priscilla Titus

Invasive plants and animals threaten all of New York State's natural resources and are related to significant economic impacts on human health, recreation, agriculture, tourism and industries. Invasive species are widespread throughout the Chautauqua Lake Watershed. You may have heard about nuisance aquatic species such as Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels, but invasive species are also present in every community assemblage in the watershed. A few examples include forest species such as Norway maple, rugosa rose, and bush honeysuckles, roadside plants such as bull thistle and Queen Anne's lace, emergent and marsh species including reed canarygrass and purple loosestrife, and a wide array of animal species and pathogens such as Asian carp, the European beech scale insect, the Asian ladybeetle, and West Nile Virus.

So what is being done to address the many threats posed by invasive species? In 2003, NYS passed legislation mandating the formation of a team to explore invasive species issues and to provide recommendations to the governor and the legislature by November 2005. The team, known as the Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF), is comprised of numerous agencies and associations that are co-led by the New York State Departments of Environment Conservation and Agriculture and Markets. ISTF presented 12 recommendations to the governor and the legislature in the fall of 2005 and, as a result, the 2006 state budget included a record \$3.25 million to address invasive species!

One of the member organizations of ISTF, the Invasive Plant Council of New York State (IPC), is a not-for-profit organization that grew out of an ad hoc group of agencies and organizations incorporated in 1999 to provide education about invasive plant issues and to coordinate and guide management of invasive plants in New York State. IPC has been working to serve as an information clearinghouse for invasive plant identification, research and management. In February, IPC held their first statewide conference, entitled *Invasive Plants on the Horizon & More*, in Albany, New York, which was attended by more than 250 people representing numerous agencies and organizations. Concurrent sessions offered over 40 conference presentations encompassing research and applied methods for controlling invasive species; inventory and control methods; utilization of volunteers and partnerships; and public outreach and education efforts. In addition, IPC has divided the state into 9 regions as a means of addressing regional issues and has been encouraging the formation of collaborations called Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management, also known as PRISMs. This is in line with the first ISTF recommendation that a permanent leadership structure be established to coordinate invasive species efforts. During pre-conference meetings, work sessions were devoted to discussing means of addressing invasive species issues throughout each region in the state. Although attendance from western New York was low compared to the rest of the State, a core group of interested individuals from that area met before the conference to discuss the formation of a Western New York PRISM.



(Above: Joe Pye Weed)

This PRISM would encompass 9 counties: Niagara, Orleans, Erie, Wyoming, Genesee, Livingston, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Chautauqua. Stakeholders could include agency and government representatives, non-government Organizations (NGOs), foundations, private companies and entities, professional organizations, academia, farm bureaus and many others. Involvement by each of the stakeholders would vary widely, from very limited involvement to providing interim or permanent staff to manage and coordinate efforts by all stakeholders. Current efforts consist of email communications between interested parties on how to move the process forward. The most pressing need is the identification of an organization that is willing to serve as an umbrella for the PRISM or for interested parties to establish a non-profit organization to coordinate the PRISM. It is anticipated that upcoming contracts will be used to dedicate permanent staff toward coordination of PRISMs.

Do you know of a non-profit organization that may be willing to devote time and staff to provide interim coordination of the PRISM formation efforts? Or are you willing to participate in the initial PRISM formation discussions? If so, please contact Paul Fuhmann (PFuhmann@ene.com) or Priscilla Titus (priscillatitus@yahoo.com). To learn more about the Invasive Plant Council, visit www.ipcnys.org (Continued on page 11)

Update on Invasive Species...cont.

IPC has also developed regional lists with categories of plant species for each region as follows: species that are not yet documented but are approaching the region; early detection species; species whose presence has been established within four or more locations; and species for which there is insufficient data. The lists serve as an easy way to see which invasive plants are already well-established in our region and help identify potential future problem species. If you would like a copy of the list for WNY, contact CWC. If you would like to learn more about invasive species, these websites may be of interest:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/habitat/istf/istf.html>
<http://www.invasive.org/eastern>
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/main.shtml>
<http://www.bbg.org/gar2/pestalets>



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2006-2007 Membership Campaign

A comprehensive member list will be printed in our Fall 2007 Newsletter and our Annual Report at the close of our 2006-07 membership year.



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Michele Buhite	Ellen Lehning		

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the following for their gifts in memory of Frank O. Anderson II:

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Mr./Mrs. James Anderson	Suzanne Foley	Robb & Joann Howell	Ken & Lois Strickler
Philip Brunskill	Suzanne Follansbee	Rolland & Jane Kidder	Allen & Barbara Yahn
Dalton & Judy Burgett	Eleanor Franks		



CWC SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR



Be sure to mark your calendars for some of our exciting upcoming events:



Sunday, May 20th:
3:30 - 5:00 PM

Wildflower & Other Wonders Walk

CWC Elm Flats Wetland Preserve, Lawson Road, Chautauqua. Led by Biology Professor Becky Nystrom. Open to everyone. Long pants and waterproof boots recommended. Bring your cameras!

Saturday, June 9th:
9:00 AM

Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters Workshop II

YMCA Camp Onyahsa, Route 430. Open to all homeowners who want to improve their yard's habitat and watershed functions. Hosted by local native plant grower Sara Baker Michalak & CWC Ecologist Priscilla Titus.

Saturday, June 16th:
3:30 - 6:00 PM

Celebration of the Chautauqua Lake: Forever Beautiful ~ Forever Bountiful Capital Campaign

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. Open to CWC Members and capital campaign contributors. Casual dress and walking shoes.

Friday, July 6th:
1:00 PM

"Swamp Tromp" — Chautauqua Lake Outlet Preserve Tour

Fluvanna Avenue, Jamestown. Led by CWC Biologist Priscilla Titus. Open to everyone. Long pants and high rubber boots are highly recommended. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water & don't forget your binoculars!

Sunday, July 22nd:
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Annual Meeting

Webb's Captain's Table, Mayville. Open to everyone.

TBD

Beaver Swamp Twilight Stroll

East Branch Chautauqua Creek Preserve, Route 430, Chautauqua. (Opposite Red Wing Road.) Led by Jay Stratton, Ganowungo Trust project leader. Open to everyone. Casual dress and walking shoes.

TBD

Summer Tours of CWC Preserves

Open to CWC members.



Your help is needed! In May and June, CWC is sponsoring "**Lake Education Days**" — a series of watershed education field trips for elementary school children, held at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center and led by naturalist Tina Nelson. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact CWC.

More information will be available as we get closer to the date of these events.

Please call the CWC office at 664-2166 or check our website for further details.





“To cherish what remains of the earth
and to foster its renewal is our only
legitimate hope of survival.”

~Wendell Berry,
American author and poet

Please consider conserving resources by
receiving this newsletter electronically.



Email us today at
chautwsh3@netsync.net
with the subject line:

SIGN ME UP!

Haven't renewed your membership?
Not yet a member?
Why not send a donation today?

Remember...CWC is almost entirely
funded by the generosity of private
donations from people like you!

Thank You!



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.