

WATERWORKS

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

February 2010

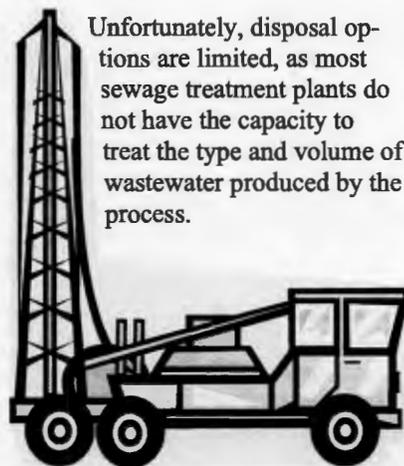


DEC Draws Fire For Hydrofracking Proposal

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Environmental groups, government officials and citizens across the state are asking the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to "go back to the drawing board" with its draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the regulation of hydrofracturing or "hydrofracking". This new technology for extracting natural gas trapped in deep geological formations, notably the Marcellus Shale in New York, involves pumping millions of gallons of chemically treated water into deep, horizontal wells. This causes the shale to fracture so that gas is released. The process results in millions of contaminated brine returning to the surface for storage and ultimate disposal.



Unfortunately, disposal options are limited, as most sewage treatment plants do not have the capacity to treat the type and volume of wastewater produced by the process.

Opponents, including many lake associations, continue to question the environmental impacts of hydrofracking. Members of the Keuka Lake Association expressed vehement opposition to a recent proposal by Chesapeake Energy to inject over 600 million gallons of the chemically contaminated wastewater from hydrofracking operations in Pennsylvania into an abandoned gas well within a mile of Keuka Lake.

New York State Congressman Eric Massa, who represents the 29th District in western NY, has continued to express his concern about the proposed DEC regulations. In a January 20, 2010 editorial to the Chronicle Express newspaper, Massa states: "New York City knows that hydrofracking has led to absolute environmental disasters in Pennsylvania, and that's why they are protecting their citizens from it." No hydrofracking will be allowed in the New York City reservoir watershed under proposed regulations.

On January 25th, opponents rallied in Albany to protest hydrofracking in New York State.

NYSFOLA continues to be involved in this issue. More inside.

NYSFOLA's mission. is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue. education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.

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WATERWORKS

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All letters to the editor represent the viewpoints of the author and may or may not reflect the opinion of the NYSFOLA membership or Board of Directors.

From the President...by Helen Sick



February is here, and Puxatawney Phil, the weather guru, has made his decision that there will be six more weeks of winter. The ice and snow on Loon Lake verifies that it is still winter, but we can dream, can't we?

We year-rounders have cared for the sleeping lakes under a blanket of snow just waiting patiently for the sun to bring them back to life. Spring is just around the corner, and the snowbirds will be migrating back to the lake signaling a new beginning.

*There has been a lot of discussion about **Marcellus Shale Gas Well Drilling** in New York State as you have seen from the cover of this issue. Why do politicians fail to understand or consider the true reality about conflict of interests? Why do large companies consider only their profit and not consider the damage to the quality of present and future water supply? We certainly appreciate all of you who have been speaking out on these practices, but we need more participation. Write to your state and federal representatives. Let them know how you feel, and ask for their help!*

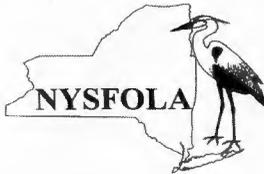
*The consequences of the new **Dam Safety Regulations** are ongoing. Join us at the **NYSFOLA Annual Conference** for a full day session on both of these important issues. The conference will be held April 30th-May 2nd at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to have fun, and to network with both professionals and volunteers dedicated to preserving and maintaining New York State lakes.*

*The **Silent Auction** is an exciting feature at the conference. Please bring an item to raise money for NYSFOLA's efforts. Also, our annual **Lake Association Newsletter Contest** is a great way to share and highlight your association's efforts. Send Nancy a copy of your newsletter or bring one to the conference.*

This year, we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). We hope you will be on hand to acknowledge the people who prepare bottles and equipment, collect and ship samples, write the reports and keep the program going.

Fill out the registration form today! There has never been a better time for your involvement in protecting our lakes and environment. Get involved! Save our lake for future generations. Volunteering is the rent we pay for the world we live in.

NYSFOLA SUBMITS COMMENTS TO DEC ON HYDROFRACKING



NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
LaFayette, New York 13084
December 30, 2009

Attn: dSGEIS Comments
Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation
NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources
625 Broadway, Third Floor
Albany, NY 12233-6500

Sent via email to: dmnsgeis@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are sending this as the Board of Directors of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). Our 501(c)(3) organization represents over 140 lake associations in our state. Our lake constituency is very concerned about the quality of groundwater, lake, and stream waters and our comments are based on those concerns. Our most significant concerns are listed:

1. Use of high quantities of water in the extraction process and the management of the wastewater. There does not seem to be any explicit criteria defining the sources of the high volume of water to be used in this process. The SGEIS needs to define restrictions to prohibit the companies from drawing water from the nearest lake or stream with the resulting damage to the local water supply and water table.

More importantly, the draft SGEIS states that the amount of consumptive withdrawal of groundwater will not be known until the applications are received. We are concerned that there does not seem to be any explicit criteria for the evaluation of the amount of water that will be approved. Efficiency measures must be required.

In addition, procedures must be in place to handle wastewater properly. Wastewater needs to be removed from the site and treated in an acceptable manner at approved wastewater treatment facilities. All wastewater treatment facilities that accept gas well drilling wastewater must have their SPDES permits modified to include the over 240 known chemicals used by the well drillers. New effluent discharge limits for the wastewater facility receiving the gas well drilling wastewater shall have limits set below the natural stream level, including TDS limits. Upstream and downstream areas from the effluent discharge shall have analysis performed on a routine basis on specific dates that the gas well drilling material is being taken into the facility for treatment. Specific discharge limits need to be set to protect the receiving waters of the state.

2. Hydrologic fracturing chemicals. A major concern is that the chemicals that are used in extraction are not disclosed, potentially toxic, and do not appear to be regulated in the draft SGEIS. The alternatives section indicates that there are no standards for "green" chemicals, and therefore regulation would be difficult. At a minimum, the chemicals that are used must be disclosed and recorded. If problems occur in the future, it is imperative to know what has been added to the groundwater. The chemicals should not be able to contain known or suspected contaminants and toxins. Deep well discharges of wastewater shall not be allowed within 50 miles of any known groundwater or surface watershed. Hydrogeological studies must confirm that there will be no impact to ground-

water as a result of deep well discharges of gas well drilling wastewater. A list of the chemicals used shall be given to all Towns prior to drilling activities so that residences may test their well, watersheds, lakes and streams for natural background levels of the proposed chemicals prior to drilling and after drilling. The drilling companies should post a bond within the township of the drilling activities that the municipalities can use if contamination is found within the Township for cleanup. The state should set up a fund for municipalities to test before and after well drilling activities. This special fund should be funded from fees imposed in the permitting process on a yearly basis similar to the current SPDES permit fees that DEC now uses. All gas well drilling permits shall be made available to the public via the NYSDEC's web site. A public reporting system must be developed that informs the public within five days of any significant event, such as a spill, or a chemical release within the Townships.

3. **Traffic impact.** All gas development creates traffic in rural areas, and the scale of the Marcellus multiplies this traffic. There is a serious concern about the movement of heavy equipment over rural roads, and the creation of new roads into drilling sites, particularly leases in state forested lands and unique watershed areas. Thousands of truckloads of water moving daily into the sites, and the removal of wastewater, will do additional damage to roads not designed for such weighty loads. The SGEIS needs to include specific language concerning measurement of this damage and the industry's responsibility for post-drilling reconstruction of the roadbeds.

While we understand the budget difficulties in the state, we are also concerned that budgetary cutbacks will limit the DEC resources available to review and monitor the proposed activities and the mitigation actions. This concern must be addressed.

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted

The Board of Directors
NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
Contact: Nancy Mueller at 800-796-3652.
fofa@nysfofa.org

Assembly Bill Would Impose Strict Liability on Hydrofracking

Press Release - Assembly District 125 - December 14, 2009

NYS Democratic Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton has introduced "The Natural Gas Exploration and Extraction Liability Act of 2010" (A09414) that would impose strict liability for all damages shown to be caused by activities associated with natural gas hydrofracking. The bill applies to corporations and companies engaged in natural gas hydrofracking activities, as well as any individual, association, corporation or other entity that owns an interest in land that is subject to a lease or other grant that permits these activities, unless said lease or grant was executed prior to the effective date of this law.

"This oil and gas industry and the DEC have repeat-

edly assured us that natural gas drilling is safe and well-regulated, so I wouldn't expect the industry to oppose this bill," Lifton said.

Lifton emphasized, "However, I feel it's prudent to create a safety net so landowners and municipalities aren't left paying for damages and clean-up if problems arise." She added, "If drilling occurs in New York State, those responsible for any adverse impact must be held strictly liable."

If passed, this proposed law will allow damage recovery once a causal connection between the drilling and related activity and the damage has been proven.

Broome County Lakes to be Removed from State's Impaired Waterbody List

Adapted from DEC Press Release



Good news for two NYSFOLA member lake associations. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed removing three Broome County water bodies from a federal list of impaired waters. Recent assessments found significant water quality improvements in **Beaver Lake** and **White Birch Lake**.

Under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, DEC must periodically identify waters for which a water quality standard has not been met due to pollution. Such waters are considered "water quality-limited" or "impaired." After assessing data collected from a variety of sources, DEC identifies waters that are impacted by pollution and that would benefit from a pollutant reduction plant (commonly referred

to as a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL.) Such waters are proposed by DEC for 303(d) listing to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Upon EPA approval of a final list, these waters are scheduled for development of a TMDL to restore water quality. If DEC develops necessary plans to demonstrate how a waterbody will be improved, if other non-TMDL actions are identified to address the impairment, or if waterbodies show sufficient improvement and begin meeting water quality standards again, DEC can then propose to delist them.

Beaver Lake and White Birch Lake are both located in the Town of Windsor. They were first listed in 2002 for excessive phosphorus coming from nearby septic systems. DEC proposes to delist them due to recent assessments which have shown the attainment of water quality standards and full support of recreational uses. The Broome County Beaver Lake Association has been participating in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program for several years, and that data was used by DEC in the delisting proposal.

More information about the 303(d) impaired waters list can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/31290.html>.

Did You Know? that New York State has 2 "officially named" Beaver Dam Lakes, 5 Beaverdam Ponds, 1 Beaver Flow, 8 Beaver Lakes, 4 Beaver Meadow Ponds, 15 Beaver Ponds, 1 Beaver Spring Pond, and 1 Beaver Valley Pond. (This list only includes those having a surface area of more than 2.6 hectares= 279,000 sq. feet*.)



**Source: NYSDEC*

NYSFOLA's 27th Annual Membership Meeting and Conference

Celebrating 25 Years of Volunteer Monitoring

April 30th-May 2nd, 2010

White Eagle Conference Center
On the Shores of Lake Moraine in Hamilton, NY

Preliminary Agenda

Dinner and room registration on Thursday evening for early arrivals will be at White Eagle Lodge in "The Grove" area of the conference center from 6:30PM-7:30PM.

Friday April 30th

7:30-8:30AM Breakfast at White Eagle Lodge
9:00AM- Registration at the Appley Center
9:30-10:00AM Welcome & Logistics-NYSFOLA Board of Directors
Chandelier Room - Appley Center
10:15AM Sessions begin at the Appley Center



Session 1: Hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale: Potential Impacts to Southern Tier Water Resources - George C. Kelley, Moderator

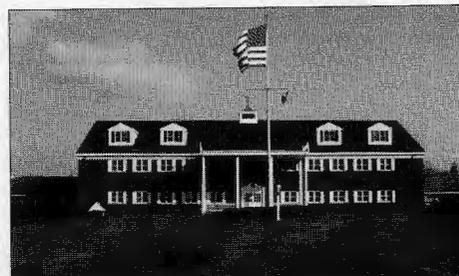
10:15-11:00AM **Overview of Marcellus Shale** - Bruce Selleck, Department of Geology, Colgate University (invited)
11:00AM-noon **Hydrofracking: New Technology for Resource Recovery** - Mr. S. Dennis Hobrook, Executive VP, Norse Energy Corporation (invited)
12:00-1:00PM Lunch at the Appley Center
1:00PM-2:00PM **Potential and Measured Environmental Impacts of Hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale** - Jamie Shallenberger, Princeton Hydro, LLC
2:00-3:00PM **Regulatory Issues in the Susquehanna River Basin** - Speaker TBA

Session 2: New NYS Dam Safety Regulations

10:15-noon **Updated Dam Safety Regulations** -Alon Dominitz, NYS DEC
12:00-1:00PM Lunch at the Appley Center
1:00-2:00M **Funding Dam Maintenance: How it's Done in Other States**- Eric Ditchey, PE, New Jersey/ Pennsylvania Council for Safe Dams
2:00PM-~3:00PM **Dam Safety Continued**—TBA
3:00PM Board of Directors Meeting
5:00-6:00PM Tepee Open for Refreshments (Cash Bar)
6:00PM Dinner at White Eagle Lodge
7:00-8:00PM Friday night forum
8:00-10:30PM Relax at the Tepee

Saturday May 1st

7:00-8:00AM Breakfast at White Eagle Lodge
8:00AM-4:00PM Registration at the Appley Center
8:30-9:00AM Welcome & Logistics in the Chandelier Room
9:00AM Sessions begin at the Appley Center



Appley Center at White Eagle Conference Center

Session 1: Diet for a Small Lake: NY Lake Management 101

9:00AM-noon (break from 10:20-10:35AM)

This popular session, conducted by the staff of the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, is recommended for 1st time NYSFOLA conference attendees or those who need a limnology refresher course. The material covered will be based on the 2nd edition of "Diet for a Small Lake" which will be available for sale at the conference.

Session 2: Aquatic Plant Management in New York State

9:00-9:40AM **A Community Approach to Managing an Invasive Aquatic Plant Species -**
Steve Wilson, Allied Biological, Inc. and Preston Gilbert, President, Cazenovia Lake Association

9:40-10:20AM **Controlling Brazilian Elodea on Lake Waccabuc by Suction Harvesting -**
Jan Andersen, Three Lakes Council and Jerry Davis, UWS Aquacleaner, Inc.

10:20-10:35 Break

10:35-11:15AM **Invasive Aquatic Plant Management by Hand Harvesting on Adirondack Lakes -**
Andrew Lewis, Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC

11:15AM-noon **Aquatic Plant Management on Saratoga Lake: A Milfoil Eradication Success Story? -** Dean Long, The LA Group, PC

Session 3: CSLAP: Celebrating 25 Years of Volunteer Monitoring on NYS Lakes

9:00-9:40AM **CSLAP: A Short History and a Longer Future: The NYS DEC Perspective -** Scott A. Kishbaugh, PE, NYS DEC Division of Water

9:40-10:20AM **CSLAP: Why We Keep Doing This & How You Can Help -** Nancy Mueller, NYS FOLA (and others)

10:20-10:35AM Break

10:35-11:15AM **CSLAP: 19,000 Samples Later, What Have We Learned? -** Scott A. Kishbaugh, PE, NYS DEC Division of Water

10:35-noon **CSLAP and HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms): Using One Acronym to Understand Another -** James B. Hyde, NYS Dept. of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Session 4: Wildlife Management for NYS Lake Associations

9:00-9:40AM **Managing Nuisance Canada Goose Populations -** USDA Wildlife Services Staff

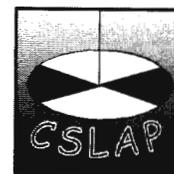
9:40-10:20AM **Beaver Control: Management & Conflict Resolution -** USDA Wildlife Services Staff

10:20-10:35AM Break

10:35-11:15AM **Fish Stocking Part I -** Dave Lemon, NYS DEC Region 7 (invited)

11:15AM-noon **Fish Stocking Part II -** Speaker TBA

12:00-2:00PM Lunch



Session 5: CSLAP Training on Lake Moraine

2:00-4:30PM This session is for new volunteers whose lake associations have been accepted into the 2010 Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program or those for whom a refresher course has been recommended. Pre-registration is required.

Session 6: Watershed Issues

2:00-2:35PM **Stormwater Management: Recent Regulatory Revisions & Monitoring Requirements -** Dean Long, The LA Group, PC

2:35-3:15PM **Keyholing: Lakefront Access to Non-Lakefront Lots -** Speaker TBA

3:15-3:30PM Break

3:30-4:05PM **Lakescaping on Small Lakefront Lots-** Margaret Mueller, CNP, Magnolia's Gardens

3:45-4:30PM **Quantifying How Both In-Lake and Watershed Based Restoration Projects Improve the Water Quality of Lakes -** Dr. Fred Lubnow, Princeton Hydro, LLC

Session 7: Aquatic Plant & Herbivore Identification Course

2:00PM- Can't tell a cattail from a pondweed? This course is for you. A "perennial" NYSFOLA favorite, Aquatic Plant ID is brought to you by Robert Johnson, Cornell University.

Session 8: Lake Law: Everything Your Association Needs to Know!

2:00PM- NYSFOLA Board member David Wright, Esq. returns to help lake associations sort through the maze of by-laws, incorporation, insurance, dues collection, taxes and more!

5:00-6:15 PM Annual Wine & Cheese Party: Silent Auction Winners Announced

6:30~8:30PM Banquet & Awards

8:30-9:30PM **Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Adirondack Environmentalist, Writer, Political Cartoonist and Lake Placid CSLAP Volunteer**



Festivities continue in the Tepee following the banquet!

Sunday May 2nd

7:00-8:00AM Breakfast at White Eagle Lodge

8:30-11:00AM Sessions at the Appley Center

Session 1: Lake Law: Everything Your Association Needs to Know!

A repeat of Saturday's session for those who were busy attending other sessions

Session 2: Invasive Species: What's Happening at the Statewide & National Level?

We're working on this one!

Session 3: "This is My Lake: Welcome to My Lake Association" - An opportunity for lake associations to "show off" their lake, their association, concerns & success stories. **Bring a PowerPoint or slide show and sign up to give a brief talk about your lake & association!** Q&A session to follow.

Ask Dr. Lake...

Dear Dr. Lake,

Last summer, fishermen on our lake were catching fish with black spots on them. What is causing this? Are the fish safe to eat?

NYSFOLA Member, Effley Falls Reservoir

The black spots on your fish are probably caused by **parasites** which are relatively common in fish. As you are probably aware, parasitic organisms live on or in another species commonly referred to as the "host" species. **Black spot** is typically caused by larval flukes, a type of flatworm, which burrow under the skin of the fish.



There are many other types of fish parasites including worms, fungi, bacteria and viruses. Depending on the

type of parasite, obvious symptoms exhibited by infected fish include warts, tumors, frayed fins, or spots. Sometimes the actual parasite (worms) will be visible.

In most cases, the fish are safe to eat as long as they are fully cooked to 140° F for at least 5 minutes or frozen for at least 48 hours. However, most experts still advise caution. When in doubt...don't.

For more information, here are some great web sites:

Minnesota Sea Grant
Parasites of Freshwater Fish
<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/fisheries/parasites>
(great color photos!)

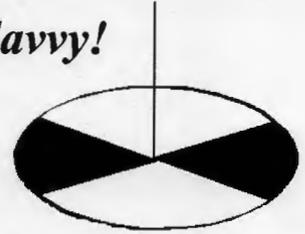
University of Florida IFAS Extension
Introduction to Freshwater Fish Parasites
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fa041>

Warnell School of Forest Resources
University of Georgia
Angler's Guide to Fish Diseases and Parasites
<http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/service/library/index.php3?docID=52&docHistory%5B%5D=1>



Test Your Secchi Savvy!

CSLAP Volunteers! Do you want to double check your secchi know-how? Are you from a lake association that would like to do some basic water clarity monitoring but don't know how to go about it?



Try the **Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program On-Line Secchi Simulator** by logging on to:

http://www.mainevolunteerlake_monitors.org/waterquality/AboutVirtualSecchiRecertification.php
Click on the Secchi Disk Image.

Although the site's purpose is to re-certify Maine's volunteer monitors, you can use the Secchi Disk Simulator by clicking on the "Try it Out" button at the bottom of the second page. There is also a set of instructions on "how to take a Secchi disk transparency reading" which can be printed out for future reference. To access this, click on the link. Make sure your pop-up blocker is temporarily turned off.



Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi

Did you know that the Secchi disk was created by Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi? Secchi was born in Reggio Italy in 1818. He was a Jesuit astrophysicist who spent time in the United States when Jesuits were expelled from Rome in 1848. During that time, he taught physics at Georgetown University. He returned to Italy in 1849, and became a professor of astronomy as well as a scientific advisor to the Pope.

Secchi is known as a pioneer of modern astronomy, but he is known to limnologists for his invention of the disk that is used to measure light transparency in lakes and oceans. In 1865, the head of the Papal Navy asked Secchi to measure the transparency of the Mediterranean Sea. Secchi devised a small white disk that could be lowered into the water column, and the secchi disk was born!

Funding Dam Repairs in New York State: A Case Story from Melody Lake - By Bob Rosati

Now that the new dam regulations are finalized, many lake associa-



tions are wondering how they will get all property owners to pay their share. Recent experiences and legal issues further complicate the situation.

This was previously a problem at Melody Lake in 1980 when our dam was inspected by

DEC and found to be unsafe due to an inadequate and deteriorated spillway, along with the lack of an operable drain. Since the Melody Lake dam was considered a "Class C, High Hazard Dam," we were ordered to bring the dam up to current standards or risk actions by the state to possibly remove the dam and drain the lake.

Our engineers' estimate to complete the dam repair was over \$150,000. At the time, the Melody Lake Association's dues were \$15/year, and only about 37 of the 96 property owners were members. Since the lake is 100% privately owned, and the association had no guaranteed income, no grants or low interest loans were available. After a few years of holding chicken barbecues, neighborhood garage sales, etc., it was obvious that we needed to try something else. We looked at the necessary repairs to see what could be done cheaper, what could be done by volunteer labor, and what would absolutely need to be contracted out. After making some recommendations to both DEC and our engineer, it looked like we could complete the necessary repairs for around \$60,000 which would require 100% membership along with a one-time contribution of \$600 from all property owners. The next step would be to try to convince the people around the lake.

During this time, membership had increased because we all had a common problem that had to be addressed. After many meetings, letters and arm twisting, 68 of the property owners actually paid the \$600, and the work on the dam started. The next problem was how to get the money from the remainder of the property owners.

In April, 1987, DEC hosted a Dam Safety-Public Awareness Workshop in Geneseo, NY which I attended. This workshop covered an overview of dam safety, liability of dam owners, emergency action plans, inspection and maintenance procedures, followed by a question and answer period. During this question and answer period, I stated that many dam owners wanted to comply but knew of no means to get the cooperation of all property owners who benefited from the dam. Although there were no suggestions from DEC, I was assured that they would forward the concern to DEC legal staff

and get back to me.

Much to my surprise, on July 7, 1987, I received a letter from Dan Luciano, DEC Senior Attorney, informing us about a May 1987 NYS Court of Appeals decision in the Seaview Association of Fire Island, NY, Inc. v. Williams et al. case. This decision stated "that under some circumstances, where there is knowledge that a private homeowners' association provides services for the benefit of all community residents, the purchase of property may manifest acceptance of conditions of ownership, among them, payment for the services offered. This implied contract includes the obligation to pay a proportionate share of the full cost of maintaining those facilities, not merely the reasonable value of those used by any particular resident."

The association hired the services of a local attorney to write a letter to the remaining 28 property owners informing them of this decision and making them aware of our plan to proceed to court, if necessary, to collect the \$600. Within a few weeks, several of the remaining property owners paid. In March 1988, we served a summons on the remaining unpaid property owners. Many consulted with their attorney, and after looking at the decision, were advised to pay rather than to proceed to court. Although we never actually took anyone to court, it appears that this decision was strong enough to convince many that they would lose. In the end, 95 of the 96 property owners paid. The other one sold their property and moved away.

The dam was repaired at a cost of \$59,541.19, along with over 2,500 volunteer man-hours. On October 5, 1988, the association received a letter from Walter Lynick, DEC Dam Safety stating that "inspection of the recently completed restoration work, found the structure to be in satisfactory condition and in compliance with applicable dam safety criteria." The letter goes on to say, "You and your Association are to be complimented for a job well done."

Now, once again, many of us are facing the problem of getting the necessary funds from all property owners to comply with the new dam regulations. A recent case on Yankee Lake in Sullivan County threatens to overturn the Seaview Association of Fire Island v. Williams decision. NYSFOLA Board member David Wright has been working to review the Yankee Lake case and, if possible, include NYSFOLA as a "Friend of the Court" in the association's appeal. More information about this situation will be presented at the annual conference.

If you or your association would like more information regarding the Melody Lake project, feel free to contact Bob Rosati at rcrosati@frontiernet.net.

B is for BABCOCK LAKE



Photo courtesy of Jan Shields, Babcock Lake Estates

Babcock Lake is a 45 acre lake located in the Town of Grafton in Rensselaer County. It is part of the Upper Hudson River basin. The lake is a class A lake which means that it is considered suitable for use as a drinking water supply as well as for contact recreation, fishing and aquatic wildlife propagation and survival.



According to an 1897 town history by George Baker Anderson, the lake was named in honor of an early inhabitant known as "Honest John" Babcock who was born January 10, 1768 in South Kingston, Rhode Island. For a short period of time, Babcock established a distillery in the Town of Grafton. He also served as Town Supervisor from 1825-1828. Babcock died in Grafton in March 1841.

Today, Babcock Lake is home to many residents who use the lake for recreational purposes. The lake has been sampled as part of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) since 1989. Volunteers from Babcock Lake Estates have provided their association with two decades worth of data giving it one of the best long term sets of data in the program. According to recent CSLAP reports, the lake is classified as *mesotrophic*, or moderately productive. Phosphorus levels in the lake have only rarely exceeded the state phosphorus guidance value, and water transparency readings have at nearly all times been above the minimum recommended water clarity for swimming beaches making the beach at Babcock Lake a favorite

recreational spot.

Babcock Lake supports a warm water fishery that includes yellow perch, smallmouth bass, pumpkinseeds and brown bullhead. Fish surveys have been conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation since at least 1934, and Ian Kiraly of the Region 4 Fisheries Office in Stamford has compiled a summary of the historic records.



Residents of Babcock Lake have the usual slate of issues to contend with. In recent years, they rallied to oppose a proposed pig farm near the lake and to express concern about local zoning ordinances. Babcock Lake Estates is also listed as the owner of a Class B (Intermediate Hazard) dam that will be subject to the new Dam Safety Regulations. A variety of events are held at the Babcock Lake Community Center for the enjoyment of lake residents and visitors alike.

Babcock Lake Estates is a long time member of NYS-FOLA, and home to Board member Jan Shields who also serves as the association's primary CSLAP volunteer.



25th Anniversary

CSLAPpenings

Dear CSLAP Volunteers,

If you have not already done so, please send in your CSLAP Participation Form and money as soon as possible. We are

beginning to prepare for the spring sampling season and have many lakes on the waiting list.

Training will be conducted at the annual conference for new volunteers or for those to whom it has been suggested that a refresher course is in order. Please check "Attending CSLAP Training" on the conference registration form so that we can get an accurate head count. We have needed two boats the last two years.



2009 CSLAP Training on Lake Moraine - by Nancy Mueller

Speaking of boats, special thanks to "Captain" Tom Ashmore of the Lake Moraine Association who has launched his boat early in the season and served as "skipper" for many years of CSLAP training —rain or shine. He has also helped us find "back ups" when the number of volunteers exceeded his pontoon's carrying capacity. THANK YOU, TOM!

In an effort to get bottles out a little earlier, and to make Nancy's life easier, some of the bottles will

be prepared by the staff at Upstate Freshwater Institute this year. We consider it money well spent as the number of bottles now exceeds 6,000 per year. This should enable us to get everyone up and running no later than mid-June.

Please take the time between now and then to inventory your equipment. Let us know if something is not working properly so that we can plan to replace it early in the season. Also, be sure to review the protocol before heading out for your first round of sampling.

Finally, we look forward to the celebration of 25 years of CSLAP. We hope that present and past volunteers will join us at the annual conference as we look back at the success of the program and look ahead to even more improvements in the future.

Thank you all for your time and dedication!

Scott A. Kishbaugh, NYS DEC

Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA



Don't Forget! CSLAP Reports are on the Web

1. Go to <http://www.nysfola.org>.
2. Find the NY State Lake Association "Lakelist" in the left hand column.
3. Using the "Searchable Directory", click on the county where the lake is located.
4. Click on "Search". Lakes from that county will appear.
5. Display the lake you are interested in.
6. You will find links to recent CSLAP reports at the bottom of the page.

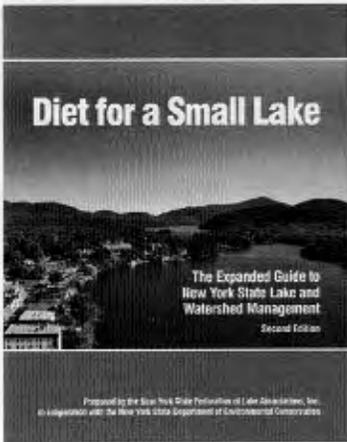
Important CSLAP forms are on the web at
<http://www.cslap.net>

AVAILABLE FROM THE NYSFOLA OFFICE

Through the Looking Glass, A Wisconsin Lake Partnership publication containing information on nearly all aquatic plants. Cost -\$25.00 + 8% sales tax and \$2.50 shipping and handling per copy.

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality, This book is a "must have" for those who want to be lake friendly property owners. The book includes chapters about lake ecosystems, designing lakeshore landscaping and selecting the right plants. The book has a bit of an upper-midwestern slant, but it is very applicable to New York State lakes.

Cost: \$20.00 + 8% sales tax and \$2.00 shipping and handling per copy



Diet for a Small Lake - The Expanded Guide to New York State Lake and Watershed Management, This book is a second-edition collaboration between the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It serves as a manual for New York lake associations to understand the complexities of watershed management and lake ecology. It also encourages lakefront property owners to take responsibility for managing their lakes, rather than assuming that government agencies will do so. It guides readers through the basics of aquatic plant management and leads them through the process of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan. The book also addresses applicable federal, state and local laws with emphasis on New York State regulations including those that apply to the Adirondack Park.

Cost: \$20.00 paperback \$35.00 hardcover + 8% sales tax and \$5.50 shipping & handling (single copy); Add \$1 s& h per additional copy.

Exotics to Go! This compact disk is "fast food" for people who need to give presentations about zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species. Use it at your lake association's annual meeting! It contains 7 PowerPoint presentations including the scripts, images and talking points that focus on zebra mussel impacts and control. There are also 22 informational publications in PDF format and lists of contacts for more information. The CD was produced by the Illinois-Indiana and Minnesota Sea Grant programs on behalf of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. Cost: \$6.00 + 8% sales tax and \$2.00 shipping and handling per copy.

NYSFOLA Publication Order Form

Title _____ Quantity _____

Ship to: Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Tax Exempt# (if applicable) _____

Price Per Copy _____ 8% Sales Tax _____ S&H _____ Total _____

**Now Accepting
2010 Membership Dues
Are Your Dues Current?**

Your mailing label is the key to your membership standing. The digit next to your name indicates the last year your dues were paid. Your membership fees are based on the calendar year, and we appreciate that some associations cannot submit fees until mid-summer. This is not a problem.

If the digit is a "9", you may submit your 2010 dues at any time. If the digit is a "10", you are a member in good standing of NYSFOLA for the upcoming calendar year. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 1-800-796-FOLA. Thank you for your continued support of NYSFOLA.

**2010 Membership Form
NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**

Lake, Watershed and other Associations:

Small Association, 10-74 members _____	\$35.00
Medium Association, 75-149 members _____	\$75.00
Large Association, 150 or more members _____	\$150.00
Park Districts (Town, County, etc.) _____	\$200.00
Individual Membership (not a member of a lake association) _____	\$20.00
Individual member of a NYSFOLA Lake Association in good standing _____ <i>(get your own copy of WATERWORKS instead of reading it at your meeting!)</i>	\$10.00
Corporate Membership _____	\$200.00
Student _____	\$10.00

Name of Lake Association or Individual _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____ Web Site _____

Lake Location (county) _____

(especially important if your lake is named Pleasant, Forest, or Timber)

Fee \$ _____ Any additional donation? \$ _____ (thank you)

**Send payment to: New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA)
P.O. Box 84
LaFayette, NY 13084**

WATERWORKS

NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
2574 Webb Road
LaFayette, NY 13084

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAFAYETTE, NY
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Three Lakes Council, 10
[REDACTED]



Calendar of Events

27th Annual NYSFOLA Conference
April 30-May 2, 2010
White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, NY
www.nysfola.org