

Chautauqua Watershed Notes
For the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
July 6, 2008

Lawns, Breakwalls and Healthy Lake Fisheries and Plants
By John Jablonski III, Executive Director
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



Maintaining a natural shoreline helps control nuisance lake plants.

We enjoy Chautauqua Lake for many purposes; swimming, fishing, skiing, and sailing as well as just taking in the view are some of the many ways it is valued. We each come to it for different reasons and from different perspectives. For the lake and watershed ecosystem, man is one of the latter species to become part of this system. The watershed forests, streams, wetlands, floodplains, shoreline plants, lake algae, lake plants, and lake animals were all functioning as a system that developed since the last glaciers retreated and Chautauqua

Lake was formed and continues changing into the lake we know today.

Healthy gamefish populations need healthy habitats in which to reproduce, find shelter, and find abundant food supplies for each stage of their lives. Our lake plants, insects, fish and animals all developed populations in concert with each other over more than 10,000 years. Then man came and continues to abruptly introduce new species, remove species, and disrupt the functions that comprise a healthy lake watershed system. What are some of these impacts? What are scientists finding in our lakes? What can we do to maintain and restore healthy game and prey fish populations? What can we do to discourage nuisance invasive lake plant growth?

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is pleased to announce that John Hiebert, Director of Habitat Restoration for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will be the keynote speaker at the CWC's program entitled, "The Links Between Shore Treatment and Lake Health" at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 9, at the Village Casino in Bemus Point. This workshop, featuring Mr. Hiebert, Robert L. Johnson from the Cornell University Research Ponds, Janis Bowman, Assistant Professor of Biology and Chris Ecker of Jamestown Community College, is the second in the CWC 2008 Healthy Landscaping ~ Healthy Waters educational series. Mr. Johnson will update the public on his Chautauqua Lake plant and insect research, including a report on the impact of insects which appear to have had a major impact on reducing the primary nuisance plant,

Eurasian watermilfoil, in Burtis Bay this summer. These four speakers will discuss the relationship between shoreline vegetation, landscaping, nuisance lake plants, lake insects and other macroinvertebrates, and healthy fish populations. Ms. Bowman and Mr. Ecker will discuss breakwalls and their impact on the abundance of animals and insects that support game fish populations. In addition, Mr. Hiebert will discuss Minnesota's lake shoreline habitat restoration program and techniques for addressing shoreline erosion problems in Minnesota lakes, which face similar wave and ice scouring conditions.

The public is encouraged to attend this free workshop. Pre-registration is appreciated. To register, or for more information, please contact the Conservancy office at (716) 664-2166 or info@chautauquawatershed.org.

The CWC is a member-supported, local grassroots 501(c)(3) tax exempt watershed education, pollution prevention and land trust organization. It seeks your support and participation to conserve Chautauqua Lake's most important endangered shore lands and implement yards and grounds practices which reduce and minimize nutrient and sediment inputs to our waterways, which fuel nuisance plant and algae growth. Membership donations can be made by calling 664-2166.