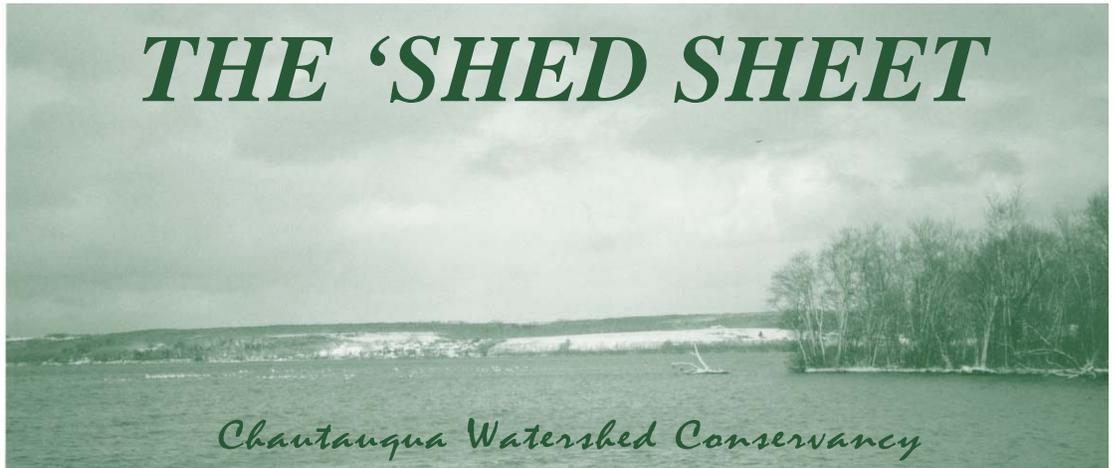




**FALL &
WINTER
2009**



THE 'SHED SHEET

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

PHOSPHORUS LEGISLATION PASSES

The Chautauqua County Legislature has adopted, and County Executive Greg Edwards has signed, Local Law #7-09, **restricting the sale and use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus** (a nutrient which fuels the growth of nuisance lake plants and blooms of algae) within Chautauqua County. This law is modeled after laws in many other states and municipalities which have resulted in measurable declines in phosphorus concentrations in downstream water bodies (i.e., receiving waters). It will be a no- to low-cost tool effective in reducing excess phosphorus in Chautauqua Lake. This local law, which will take effect in 2011, prohibits retailers from displaying lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus on their shelves. Customers will, however, still be able to purchase fertilizers containing phosphorus when the need for such fertilizers is shown – for example, when they need to establish new turf or when a soil analysis prescribes phosphorus as necessary for proper turf growth.

The Conservancy thanks not only the Chautauqua County Legislature and County Executive for enacting this important law but also CWC members for their letters, phone calls and other actions supporting its passage. Working together is imperative to ensure the health and beauty of our lake for generations to come. ❁

CWC AWARDED \$209,677 GRANT FOR WELLS BAY

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy was recently awarded a matching grant of \$209,677 from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund to conserve the Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest in North Harmony. This wet, wooded 3½-acre site (which has 210' of shoreline!) possesses a network of wetlands and stream channels on shore and a shallow water sandy



The Wells Bay parcel, one of the last undeveloped shoreline forest habitats on Chautauqua Lake.

bottom just offshore. It had been under threat of sale for residential development, which would have not only precluded future use of lake surface for swimming and boating but also negatively impacted the shoreline forest habitat and water quality of Chautauqua Lake by severely damaging the hydrological systems of springs, wetlands and tree roots that carry, store and filter waters running through this site from the properties up hill. With this grant award, CWC has \$270,000 committed toward its \$450,000 goal for this project. Upon raising the remaining balance, this rare forest, stream and wetland site can remain an excellent habitat for a variety of species as well as an important scenic site enjoyed by residents and tourists. Furthermore, conserving this site will also help support jobs at local marinas, convenience stores, grocers and lodging facilities and

provides sales tax revenues to area communities. We ask for your help to raise the match for this State grant! The chance to conserve this unique site is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! If you would like to be part of this historic action, please call the CWC at 664-2166. ❁

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>2009-10 CWC Officers</i>	2
<i>2010 Priorities</i>	3
<i>Janet Pry Welcome</i>	3
<i>CWC Denied Bed Tax Money</i>	4
<i>Blue-Green Algae Blooms</i>	5



Chautauqua
Watershed
Conservancy

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Jill Bennett,
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The 'Shed Sheet is a quarterly 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. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As the new President of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, I want to express my deep appreciation to all of you who are CWC members, donors, volunteers and supporters. Thank you! I am honored to serve you and tell you that I am very dedicated to our mission.

For those of you who receive *The 'Shed Sheet* but are not yet members or donors, I urge you to join us in our mission. In reading this issue and prior issues of the "Shed," you know the efficacy of our work to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region.

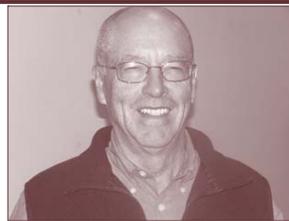
We need your support now. We need you to join us as a member of CWC to provide financial support and to think about ways you can contribute to our mission through your own personal actions. Please do not wait. If you have been in or around Lake Chautauqua in the past year, then you know that doing nothing is not an option. Join with us now to improve and preserve the quality of our waters and their watersheds.

Over the years, I have served on numerous non-profit boards and supported many other worthwhile causes. None have done so much with a staff of basically two employees working out of a third floor walk-up office. There are no unnecessary costs or frills in this organization. Simply put, so much has been accomplished over the last 19 years because of very professional employees, a dedicated and savvy board, a strong and expanding group of supporters who offer their time and skills, and the financial support of members and donors who provide the critical funding to push the mission forward.

In 2010, we will celebrate our 20th anniversary with an ambitious agenda that will require volunteer hours as well as financial support. There are many ways that you can help, and we need it. Simply call or email the CWC office, and we'll be happy to include you.

Thank you again for your support and belief in the CWC mission! 

Yours in Stewardship,

President Michael K. Lyons

BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

CWC's Board of Directors has elected its officers for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Mike Lyons will serve as President, Tom Small and Jane Conroe as Co-vice Presidents, Bill Locke as Treasurer and David Andersen as Secretary

A very special thank you for the bequest made by the late
Willis E. Dobbins

Thank You 

THANK YOU

Our deepest appreciation to retiring director
Jane D. Kidder
for her 5 years of service on the Conservancy's Board of Directors.

Looking Ahead to 2010



A healthy lake depends upon the healthy functions of ecological and hydrological systems in the lake and watershed. CWC strives to conserve the important components of water collection, storage, filtration, and delivery systems sustaining a healthy lake. We, as a community, must ensure that we keep healthy shorelines, forests, streams, flood plains, groundwater recharge areas and wetlands intact through good stewardship practices and conservation. To accomplish this, the CWC has set the following priorities for 2010:

1. Lakeshore Conservation & Enhancement – CWC will continue its pursuit to conserve very scarce and threatened natural shore lands with priority given to the Goose Creek Wetland and Wells Bay Lakeshore Forest. CWC will, with experts from other agencies, technical assistance and targeted limited financial assistance, also continue its pursuit to enhance waterfront buffers by assisting landowners with native plant usage and other land management practices in order to arrest erosion and enhance the anchoring and filtration functions of shoreline buffer zones.
2. Watershed Education for Pollution Prevention – CWC will (via *The 'Shed Sheet*, presentations, workshops, internet, radio messages, signs, etc.) continue to encourage watershed residents, businesses, organizations and governments to implement best management practices that will increase the effectiveness of watershed functions. CWC will also:
 - ◆ encourage store and nursery owners to sell phosphorus-free detergents and lawn fertilizers,
 - ◆ research and draft recommendations and build a coalition support for the continued adoption and implementation of laws or regulations by the County Legislature and/or Health Department promoting best land management practices (such as the recently passed county law regulating the sale and use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus), and
 - ◆ publicize the findings/recommendations and build public support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan in cooperation with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission
3. Preserve Access Improvements – CWC will develop management plans, identify opportunities for public use, implement signage, and make trail and parking improvements of CWC preserves.
4. Collaboration – CWC will, along with the Chautauqua Lake Association and other area organizations, help implement the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission's Watershed Management Plan and other initiatives.
5. Watershed Stream Corridor, Wetland and Headwater Forest Conservation – CWC will cultivate and pursue opportunities with area landowners to conserve and enhance watershed sites that provide important hydrological functions such as collection, storage, filtration and delivery. 🌳

New Director Welcome

CWC welcomes Janet Pry to its Board of Directors. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Janet has spent every summer at Chautauqua since her early childhood. She is the secretary/treasurer and co-owner of Crawford Title Agency, Inc., the current Executive Director of the Bucyrus Area (Ohio) Community Foundation, and a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, MT. In addition to currently serving on the Ohio State University at Marion Board of Trustees, Janet has previously served as a member and President of the Bucyrus Area YMCA, a Mid-West Field Representative to the National YMCA, a member of the NW Ohio Cluster of YMCAs, a member of the Rotary Club of Bucyrus, Ohio, and a member and President of the Board of Trustees of the Discovery School in Mansfield, Ohio. Janet and her husband, Jim, live on his family farm in Bucyrus, Ohio, where the head waters of the Sandusky River runs through their property and, due to the riparian buffer zones created by their trees, the water on their land tested as some of the cleanest in the state. Over the past 35 years, they have planted over 50,000 deciduous trees, and in 2007 their farm was designated Ohio Tree Farm of the Year. Welcome aboard Janet! 🌳



Janet Pry



Thank You Notes



BUSINESSES & CLUBS:

Chautauqua Property Owners Assn.
Chautauqua Shores Improvement Assn.
Chautauqua Women's Club
JCC Earth Awareness Club
Prendergast Point Property Owners
The Presbyterian Assn. of Chautauqua
Ready About Sailing
Sportsmen's Club

NEW MEMBERS:

Alan Bates	Linda McCallum
Dan & Betsy Bikle	Ron & Ann Neff
Bill & Peggy Blackburn	Chuck & Susan Olar
Charles Cammarata	Frank Pocza
Charles & Wendy Heinz	William Redmond
Joseph & Reggie Komar	Todd & Lois Swanson
Pamela Mayer	John Jay Warren



MEMORIALS:

In memory of Warren Bolling from Terry & Joan Bolling, the Conover Family, IATSE Local 266 & the Lincoln Elementary School Faculty

In memory of Sherwood C. "Bud" Carlson from Caroline Bader

In memory of Karen A. Hopfinger from Anthony H. Hopfinger

In memory of Bill Myott from the Conover Family

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Alicia Armeli for her work on this year's *Chautauquan Daily* watershed education ad series

Chautauqua Marina for donating a portion of the proceeds from its National Marina Day event to CWC

Dawn Carutis, Nina LaClair & Connie Thayer for donating a portion of the proceeds from their plant sale to CWC

Farm Fresh Foods, Frantz & Russel Sanitary Service, Mazza Vineyards, Noble Winery, & Tops Friendly Markets for sponsoring CWC's member appreciation event

Marsha Pritz for donating a portion of her proceeds from watercolor paintings to CWC

The Viking Trader Gift Shop for sponsoring CWC's Cheney Farm Morning Watershed Walk

No Bed Tax Funds For Waterways Conservation

In August, the Chautauqua County Legislature went against the funding recommendation and priority ranking of the Waterways Panel of the County Water Quality Task Force by passing a resolution to remove \$28,700 of 2010 Waterway Enhancement & Protection 2% bed tax funding recommended by the Waterways Panel for CWC to purchase the 25-acre Goose Creek wetland site on Chautauqua Lake. This decision came despite the fact that CWC *intends to pay taxes on the property for at least the next five years*. The flood and sediment control, water quality and recreational benefits to the public of this streamside lakefront site are estimated to be \$40,000 annually. CWC believes that this project strongly meets the intent of the law dedicating these 2% lodging tax funds "solely to the enhancement and protection of the lakes and streams of Chautauqua County." In November, the Legislature adopted a resolution stating that "the purchase of any property is not eligible as a project to be funded by the 2% Lakes and Waterways Bed Tax" despite the argument from Legislator Mueller that preserving wetlands is one of the most efficient and cost effective ways to protect our lake. Consequently, CWC's land conservation projects to save valuable threatened shorelands and wetlands are currently not eligible for the County's primary waterways protection funding, making your private donations for land conservation even more critical.



Blue-Green Algae: Familiar Suggestions Are the Solution

by Jane E. Conroe

The newest nuisance to Chautauqua Lake users was this year's not-so-grand entrance of blue-green algae. Its odd blue-green color attracted our attention but, as with some brightly-colored species, it also sent us a warning. Blue-green algae is a harmful bacteria phylum called cyanobacteria which makes its own food through a process similar to plant photosynthesis. A single cyanobacterium cell is microscopic, and when they are able to multiply efficiently, they form a film or thick, leather-like scum commonly referred to as an algal bloom. Unlike green algae, which is an excellent food source in freshwater systems, there does not appear to be a natural consumer of cyanobacteria.

The NYS Health Dept. recently entered into a 5-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor algal bloom occurrences and test for toxicity levels of one of the toxins, microcystin. The program was implemented through the New York Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). As a CSLAP volunteer for Chautauqua Lake, I was asked to send waters samples from both the north and south basin to the state health lab three times. Special samples were also sent if a bloom was occurring. One of those samples indicated a higher level of the microcystin toxin, causing the Chautauqua County Health Dept. to distribute a notice to avoid bloom areas. Results of all of the samples have not been received, but the toxin levels in two of the lake samples did "cause concern" at the lab.

According to the CDC, cyanobacteria can release several toxic substances (i.e., natural poisons) which can harm fish, waterfowl, and mammals (including humans). There are no known antidotes. Health effects associated with exposure to high concentrations of cyanobacteria toxins include stomach and intestinal illness, trouble breathing, allergic responses, skin irritation, liver damage and neurotoxic reactions such as tingling fingers and toes. Getting it on the skin may give people a rash, hives or skin blisters. Inhaling water droplets from irrigation or water-related recreational activities can cause runny eyes and nose, a sore throat, asthma-like symptoms or allergic reactions.



The good news is that it is relatively easy to avoid all of these risks. Remember that odd bright blue-green color? Stay away from it! Avoiding the risks means avoiding the water contaminated with the toxins. Do not drink or swim (or let your pet drink or swim) in an area that is experiencing a harmful cyanobacteria algal bloom. The larger issue of how to reduce or prevent the blooms will sound very familiar to regular 'Shed Sheet readers. Algal blooms are caused by nutrient loading to a water body (i.e., when levels of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are high, cyanobacteria can multiply more efficiently). Reducing nutrient loading can be achieved by reducing the use of fertilizers, using phosphate-free automatic dishwashing detergent, proper maintenance of household septic systems, and preserving and introducing buffer zones of natural vegetation along stream corridors and lake shoreline. A healthy lake will be reflected by a healthy watershed. That odd blue-green color of cyanobacteria is warning us...better, reminding us...to reduce the nutrient loading to our watershed. ✿

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

I would like to: join CWC renew my CWC membership give a gift membership make a year-end gift

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

Individual/Family Memberships: Friend \$20 - \$49 Steward \$50 - \$199
 Contributor \$200 - \$499 Supporter \$500 - \$999
 Conservation Partner \$1,000 - \$4,999 Land Legacy \$5,000+

Business/Corporate Memberships: Sponsor \$100 - \$499 Leader \$500 - \$2,499 Partner \$2,500+

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

_____ / _____
Card Number

_____ / _____
Expiration

Signature

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

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



413 North Main Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: (716) 664-2166
Fax: (716) 483-3524
info@chautauquawatershed.org
www.chautauquawatershed.org

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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.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 16th:
9:00 — 10:00 am

Morning Watershed Hike/Snowshoe Tour — Join *Watershed Notes* contributor Susan Songster-Weaver for a hike/snowshoe tour of CWC's Dobbins Woods Preserve on Bly Hill Road in Ashville. (Bring your own snowshoes.)

Thursday, January 21st:
7:00 — 8:00 pm

Movie Night — View "After The Storm," a ½-hour DVD co-produced by the EPA and The Weather Channel showing the pollution impacts of stormwater on waterways. A Q&A session will follow. Held at the Community Center in Celoron.

Saturday, January 30th:
10:00 — 11:00 am

Morning Watershed Walk — Join CWC Director and JCC Biology Professor Rebecca Nystrom for a tour of CWC's proposed Goose Creek Preserve on Route 394. Group will re-gather at the Ashville General Store for warm beverages after the tour.

Saturday, February 20th:
10:00 — 11:00 am

Morning Wetland Walk — Join CWC Executive Director John Jablonski for a tour of CWC's Elm Flats Preserve on Lawson Road in the Town of Chautauqua.

Saturday, March 13th:
9:00 — 10:00 am

Morning Watershed Walk — Join CWC Director and ornithologist John Rappole for a tour of CWC's Outlet Preserve on Fluvanna Avenue Extension just west of Jamestown and perhaps see some migrating tundra swans or other birds!

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Please pre-register for all events and wear appropriate outerwear and footwear for preserve tours. For more information or to register, call or email the CWC.

Get Educated

Jamestown Community College is offering an 8-week, non-credit course entitled ***Lakes and Their Watersheds, An Introduction to Lakes, Lake Ecology & Lake Management on Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. from March 3rd through April 28th 2010.*** Participants will

receive an introduction to lakes and their problems, an overview of aquatic organisms and their ecological relationships, as well as a guide for living with the lakes and their watersheds. A free overview will be held on February 17th from 7-9 p.m. Contact JCC at 338-1005 or continuingeducation@mail.sunycc.edu for more information.

