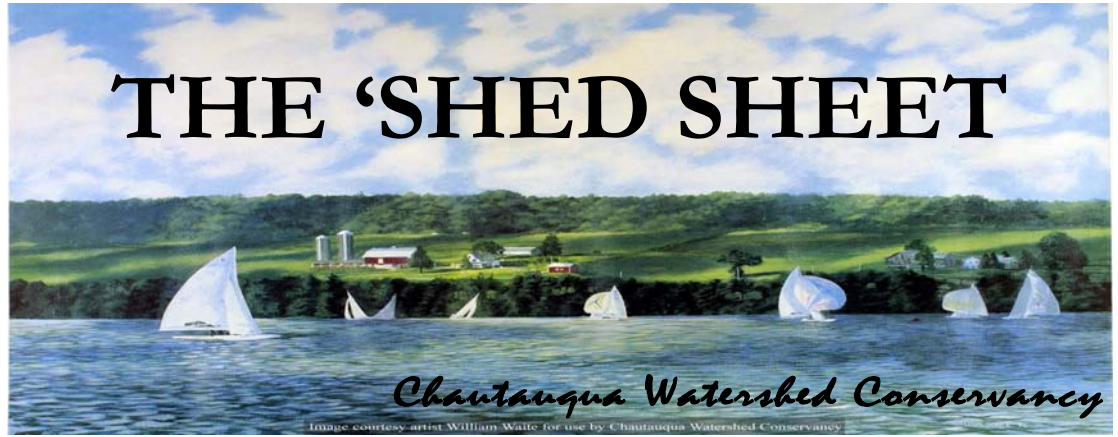




SUMMER
2007



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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CWC Holds Lake Tour for Local Leaders

On July 10th, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy held a three-hour Chautauqua Lake watershed education tour aboard the "Summer Wind" for local leaders. The purposes of the tour were to view the lake's sedimentation, nuisance plant and algae problems; to identify the visible land use patterns and practices in the watershed that contribute to these problems; to inform leaders about the actions that need to be taken in the watershed to address the root causes of these problems; and to highlight the 1.8 miles of natural shore land sites conserved by the Conservancy and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation over the last ten years.

Abby Snyder, Region 9 Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and John Jablonski III, CWC Executive Director, identified shore land sites conserved by these organizations (such as the Cheney Farm and Stow Farm lake-shore properties) and discussed the importance of such sites for water quality and fish and wildlife habitats/populations.

The featured speaker of the tour was Fred Lubnow, Ph.D., the Director of Aquatic Science for Princeton Hydro and a lake scientist with experience developing and implementing lake management plans for several lakes in NY, PA and NJ. He explained the relationship between land uses, runoff, soil erosion, sedimentation and the nutrient enrichment of Chautauqua and other lakes. He noted that phosphorus is commonly the nutrient associated with lake algae and plant growth and that one pound of phosphorus entering the lake can fuel 1,100 pounds of algae growth. He

went on to explain that reducing the source of nutrients (i.e., phosphorous) can significantly reduce the lake's algae and plant growth and that phosphorus can enter the lake as part of lawn fertilizers or from silt and clay eroded from stream banks, construction sites and road ditches.

Dr. Lubnow asserted that it will take a comprehensive plan to effectively reduce phosphorus to the lake and identified several actions that can be taken to do so such as stabilizing and restoring stream banks, prohibiting the application of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorous, upgrading wastewater treatment plants to tertiary treatments for phosphorous removal, enacting local laws to require storm waters be treated to control nutrients, and identifying sites for and implementing storm water projects to manage and treat waters from existing developed sites and neighborhoods. *(continued on page 5)*



Above (from left): CLMC Chairman Bill Evans, CWC President Art Webster, Chautauqua County Executive Greg Edwards and CLA President Tad Wright on the "Summer Wind" educational cruise.

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 Priscilla Titus, *Ecologist*
 Hollyann Leach, *Intern*

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,

In the fall of 2005 your Board of Directors developed a strategic plan based on the image of a three-legged stool, like an old-fashioned milking stool. That image has served us well in helping us focus our energies and efforts and give us a constant sense of urgency in what we do.

In the fall of 2006, however, a fourth leg was added to the stool, making the image one of the traditional four-legged stool. The fourth leg is an emphasis on the educational efforts of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.

To review with you and to give you a clearer picture of the work of the CWC, let me summarize what these four legs represent.

The first leg: conserving land around the lake. This, of course, is the heart of the Conservancy's work. With the help of the State of New York in 2006, we were able to conserve a large shoreline section of the Cheney Farm on the east side of the lower lake. We are also working to conserve important areas bordering the outlet. There is only about one mile of shoreline remaining in a relatively natural state; consequently, preserving land is vital to protecting those sites that provide great ecological, wildlife and scenic value. It also means helping to reduce the sedimentation and fertilization that contribute to weed growth in the lake. Knowledge and acceptance of this importance is rapidly growing among the citizens and businesses of our area – which is an extremely helpful and hopeful sign!

The second leg: membership development. This is an ongoing effort. CWC has grown from 500 members in 1999 to a membership of nearly 1,400 families and businesses today. Your contributions, support and involvement are crucial to the success we all want to see. Without you, no more land can be conserved and that last mile of shoreline just might fall under a developer's bulldozer. As we continue to grow and to have new needs, we ask that you encourage your friends and business partners to join in these efforts. It is absolutely essential that each of us spread the word about CWC and its mission and to encourage others to participate.

The third leg: leading the way in working with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. I am presently serving on that Commission representing the interests of the CWC. The CLMC has developed a 14-point plan for addressing the issues in the lake and the root causes of those problems that reside in the watersheds of the 11 major streams that feed the lake. The Commission has received funding from the Chautauqua County Legislature and is working diligently to implement the plan. It is slow going, and at times frustrating, but we are involved in a cause that is bigger than any one individual or organization. Failure is simply not an option!

(continued next page)



The fourth leg: education. Education and increasing public awareness has always been an emphasis of the CWC, but in the past couple of years the educational effort has grown significantly, largely because of your support and involvement. A few recent programs that CWC has undertaken were the "Lake Days" held at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center involving more than 800 K-6th elementary school children, an intensive phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergent education program, the weekly newspaper column "Watershed Notes" that runs in every Sunday edition of the *Post-Journal*, the "H2O for Life" program involving 600 K-6th Southwestern Elementary School children, a cruise aboard the "Summer Wind" with many of our County Legislators and our County Executive, and numerous workshops on the effects of storm water run-off from our roads and ditches and how to create healthy landscapes that produce healthy waters.

So now we have a four-legged stool, which I find a helpful image. Try to remember what the four legs represent, and you will have a pretty clear picture of the overall work of the CWC.

As always, I am grateful to our Board of Directors for their courageous and visionary leadership, to John Jablonski, our Executive Director, to Cathy Spangenburg, our Director of Development and Public Relations, and to Jill Desborough who keeps it all moving forward as our Director of Operations. Our Board and Staff are tops!



DAVID TODD, DMD, MD JOINS CWC BOARD

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is pleased to announce the addition of **Dr. David Todd** to its Board of Directors. David is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon whose practice is located in Lakewood. He received a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University, a DMD degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, and an MD degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

David serves on the Advisory Board of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery National Insurance Company and serves as a board examiner on the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is also the Treasurer of the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, a fellow of the American College of Dentists, and a fellow of the American Dental Society of Anesthesia.

David has been vacationing on Chautauqua Lake since 1974 and a resident of Lakewood, NY, since 1994, where he lives with his wife and four children. **Welcome David!**



David W. Todd, DMD, MD



Our deepest appreciation to retiring directors
Elizabeth "Betsy" Shepherd & Don S. Weaver, Sr.
 for their many years of service on the CWC board
 and overall support of the Conservancy.

A Message from the Executive Director

By John Jablonski III

Greetings! I hope that you are having an enjoyable summer so far. It has been a very busy spring and summer for all of us involved with the Conservancy.

In May and June, CWC provided 800 elementary school students with a "Lake Day" at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, teaching them about the lake and its watershed. On June 16th, we celebrated reaching our campaign fundraising goal for the lakeshore forest conservation project at the LCLC. On July 10th, the CWC hosted over sixty local and Conservancy leaders for a three-hour educational cruise on the "Summer Wind" to highlight actions taken and proposals to improve Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. We have worked to identify and host experts on lake and watershed management to help us inform local leaders and the public on these topics. It is an exciting time to be part of a concerted effort to bring resources from all levels of government to bear on the challenges of managing Chautauqua Lake and its watershed.

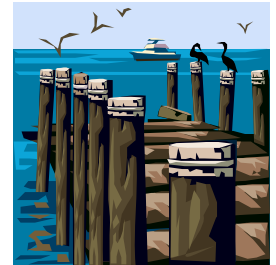
However, it is clear that, if we are to curtail lake degradation and improve lake conditions, a comprehensive program of in-lake and watershed programs will have to be implemented. A comprehensive lake and watershed management program would entail watershed land conservation and enhancement projects, stream and wetland conservation, restoration and enhancement projects, and installation of storm water treatment, storage and infiltration facilities on existing and new residential, commercial, industrial, transportation and institutional lands. It would entail homeowners and landowners changing their landscaping and lawn maintenance practices. It would likely entail the construction of more advanced tertiary sewage treatment facilities and/or the use of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes, rather than discharging to the lake. It would likely entail influencing the lake's fish and insect communities through management of the lake's food web in order to induce the control and/or management of the lake's nuisance plants and algae by insects and animals. It would include using native plants on the lakeshore and in the water along the shoreline to effectively absorb nutrients. It would also have to entail effective means of monitoring and eradicating new exotic species infestations.

One thing is for sure...if this is going to be successful, *each of us* – watershed residents, business people, government officials, agencies and institutions – will have to do our part! The Conservancy, through our newsletter, educational activities, land conservation activities and lake and watershed technical expertise, continues to lead these watershed and lake management efforts. We are optimistic that, with leaders of the Conservancy, Chautauqua Lake Association and other organizations on the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission working together, and with the combined energy of the members of these groups, the *implementation* of effective lake and watershed management programs will be greatly accelerated.

The CWC and CLA, with our respective complementary watershed and lake maintenance programs, must continue to grow in strength through your membership donations. These organizations are the *foundation* for the community support behind these efforts. We get our power for accomplishment from you, our members – lake homeowners, boaters, fisherpersons, birders, outdoor enthusiasts, area residents and business people.

Please know that **over 99% of the Conservancy's program and operating funds come from membership donations and grants from private foundations.** To date, CWC has received only \$2,000 in funding from Chautauqua County in 2007 for land conservation activities and zero dollars from CLMC. Recently, the CLMC selected TVGA Consultants to implement "Watershed Technical Services." The Conservancy will be a subcontractor of these services, providing approximately \$5,000 of erosion control technical assistance over the next 12 months. If CWC receives any future funding from CLMC, it may enable us to deliver *additional* projects. It will augment our existing programs and funding, not replace them.

Your generous support as members of the Conservancy must continue if we are to sustain and build upon our land conservation, watershed education and pollution prevention successes! Thank you for your support!



John Jablonski III

Lake Tour cont.

Fred Lubnow also expressed hope for Chautauqua Lake's success with such a plan, noting that other lakes with similar conditions are effectively managing their algae and plant problems. Currently, Chautauqua County is negotiating with Princeton Hydro to undertake specific lake investigations on behalf of the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission.

Also on board the cruise were County Executive Greg Edwards; Chris Fahey representing Congressman Brian Higgins; Lori Cornell representing Assemblyman William Parment; County Legislature Republican and Democratic Caucus leaders Fred Crocut and Chuck Cornell; county legislators Brian Abram, Richard Babbage, Stephen W. Keefe, Tina Hallquist and Douglas V. Richmond; town supervisors Cathy Sullivan of Busti, Arden Johnson of Ellery, Patrick Tyler of Ellicott and Sally Carlson of North Harmony; mayors Anthony Caprino of Lakewood and mayor Bryan Dahlberg of Bemus Point; town and village council persons Don Emhardt and David Ward of Chautauqua, Craig Miller of Ellery, Joe Troche of Lakewood; and Clerk Nancy Thomas of North Harmony. Foundation leaders included Randall Sweeney of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Diane Hannum of the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, Linda V. Swanson of the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation and David Shepherd of the Holmberg Foundation. NYSDEC officials on board, in addition to Regional Director Snyder, were Regional Permits Administrator Steven J. Doleski and Senior Fisheries Biologist Paul McKeown. Bodell Overcash Anderson & Company President John E. Anderson, CLA President Edward "Tad" Wright, CLA 1st Vice President P. Christian Yates and Chautauqua Lake Management Commission Chairman William Evans also attended.

We thank the **Arnold Holmberg Foundation, Ed Shults Auto Group, Fred Lubnow, Ph.D/Princeton Hydro** and our **CWC members** for sponsoring/participating in this event.



Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.

~ Frank Lloyd Wright
1867-1959

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KAYAKING FOR A CAUSE

Chautauqua resident **Subagh Khalsa** has always had a passion for environmental issues and doing what he can to help people live in dignity. This, combined with his affection for solo, self-propelled travel in the natural world has led him to his next venture — kayaking from his home at Chautauqua Institution to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans.

While the 2,200 mile trip will serve as both a personal challenge and a spiritual quest for Subagh, he also hopes it will raise money and awareness for two issues and organizations close to his heart — watershed conservation through the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and the rebuilding of homes in New Orleans through Habitat for Humanity.

“For generations, we’ve been sending our runoff down stream to the Gulf of Mexico,” says Subagh. “Now we need to be sending aid.” Over the last few months, Subagh has been making final preparations on his kayak, getting his 62-year-old body ready for the physical challenges that lay ahead and soliciting donations for both the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. He will leave Chautauqua at the end of August and arrive in New Orleans in early November. There, he will be joined by his wife where both will volunteer with Habitat for Humanity for a few weeks.

If you would like to support Subagh with either a donation or logistical help, or to follow his progress, please visit his blog at www.kayaktrip.wordpress.com. You can also donate directly to CWC (716-664-2166 or www.chautauquawatershed.org) or the Chautauqua area Habitat for Humanity (716-269-7772 or visit: <http://habitchaut.org>).



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

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

I want to: become a new member of CWC
 renew my annual CWC membership

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

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- My tax-deductible check is enclosed
- Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/American Express/Discover _____

Card Number

Expiration

Signature

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

Remembrances, Recapitulations & Upcoming Opportunities for the Health of the Chautauqua Watershed

By Ecologist Priscilla Titus

Lately, my mind is occupied with the recent loss of a great advocate of native plants.Lady Bird Johnson. Among her numerous accomplishments, Lady Bird Johnson oversaw a wildflower research center in Austin, Texas. She first became interested in plants for use in beautification efforts but quickly came to understand their greater importance in providing healthy contributions to the landscape and for instilling a sense of place to our nation's many unique geographical regions. She once stated, "I want Texas to look like Texas, and Vermont to look like Vermont. I just hate to see the land homogenized." To that end, she founded a wildflower research center in 1982, which was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on her 85th birthday. The center currently serves as a showplace for native plants and an education center. In addition to planting actual seeds along many of our state highways in order to increase the beauty of these frequented areas, Lady Bird Johnson championed a more important and long-term enterprise by planting the seeds of awareness and change in the way that we view our native plant heritage. This awareness has swept the nation in recent decades, and today the Wildflower Center works to preserve and restore the beauty and biological richness across North America and has become one of the country's most credible research institutions and effective advocates for native plants.



Blue flag iris is an excellent native colorful lakeshore or streamside plant that also does well in rain gardens.

Here at home, native plants play a tremendous role in fostering the health of our local watersheds. For this reason, the CWC has instituted a series of *Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters* workshops to assist those interested in cultivating a healthy landscape. The first of these was held in February and was designed to assist professional landscapers incorporate native plantings in their services to homeowners with lakeshore or riparian properties. The workshop was led by John Munro, an expert in ecological restoration, who addressed many of the challenges that face landowners, such as managing difficult site conditions and eradicating aggressive non-native species. He also discussed the selection of appropriate plants and proper maintenance procedures for healthy landscapes and presented a primer on bioengineering materials and design. Sara Baker Michalak, a local native plant educator, enthusiast, and propagator, introduced the role of native plants in our landscape. The workshop also featured a "hands-on" demonstration in which workshop participants modeled existing erosion problems and formulated solutions using a sandbox filled with moist sand, allowing participants to better visualize and remember specific techniques.

A second workshop was held in early June at Camp Onyahsa on the shores of Chautauqua Lake and focused on assisting homeowners in understanding the role of native plants in maintaining a healthy landscape and providing them with the knowledge needed to improve their stewardship over the lands they inhabit. An initial presentation by Sara Baker Michalak introduced participants to native wildlife species that depend on specific native plant species and the role these species provide in stabilizing our landscape. Following Sara, I presented participants with an array of activities that homeowners can use to best manage their landscapes for watershed health. The workshop concluded with a brief walk around the grounds to observe the roles native plants play on the Chautauqua Lake shoreline.

In the future, CWC would like to hold more workshops of this type, and would like to install a demonstration lakeshore buffer strip using native species plantings in a public access site so that homeowners and local landscapers would be offered the opportunity to see an example of this type of stewardship. With each of these efforts, CWC hopes to build the type of momentum needed to restore and nurture Chautauqua Lake's abundance of natural resources. In the spirit of Lady Bird Johnson, if enough interested landowners become actively involved in establishing a personal relationship with the natural world and encourage native plants and wildlife species back into our immediate surroundings, together we can knit a wholesome landscape that will protect our region's waters and increase widespread appreciation of the unique region we inhabit.


If you would like to know more, please call our office at 664-2166 for a list of educational resources or a list of native plant species recommended for our region.



Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters III

The third workshop in the *Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters* workshops series was held on Saturday, August 11th at the Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center in Jamestown and presented by Pamela Musk, Director of Centers and Education for Audubon New York.

Topics of discussion included watershed degradation, property management practices, native and exotic plant species, storm water runoff reduction, and limiting the use of pesticides, fertilizers and phosphorous-based cleaning agents. The event also featured a walk on the Center's grounds so that participants could observe common watershed problems and solutions first-hand.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Jamestown Audubon Society in collaboration with the CWC, the Conewango Creek Watershed Association, the Chautauqua County Environmental Management Council and the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. It was funded by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership. 




Summer Events

August 11	Blue grass, BBQ & Brews Festival
September 8-9	Chocolate Lover's Weekend
September 14-15	Spa and Scrapbooking Weekend
October 6	Couples Cooking Weekend
October 13, 14 & 20, 21	20th Annual Fall Fest
October 27	Beer and Wine Festival
November 23, 2007 to January 10, 2008	First Annual Festival of Lights & Trail of Lights



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2006-2007 Membership Campaign & Thank You's



Note: A comprehensive membership list for CWC's 2006-07 fiscal year will be included in our Fall 2007 Newsletter.

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Special thanks to SUNY Fredonia **Professor Ann Cardin and her students** for selecting CWC to participate in the Public Relations Department's senior capstone course, wherein the students designed campaigns and strategic plans for CWC to help promote awareness and community support. The CWC is grateful for all their hard work and great ideas!

CLA NEWS

A VERY SPECIAL HELLO!

This column marks a new chapter for both the Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA) and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (CWC). In early June of this year, CWC President Art Webster, CWC Vice President Tom Small and CWC Executive Director John Jablonski met with CLA Vice President Chris Yates and I to discuss ways that the two organizations should cooperate. Our goal is the same – to protect and improve Chautauqua Lake and the surrounding streams and watersheds. In recognition of this common goal, the CWC has graciously offered a column in this newsletter to keep the members of the CWC abreast of the CLA's efforts. Since this is our initial column introducing the CLA to many members of the CWC, a brief history of our organization and explanation of our role is appropriate.

The CLA has been the steward of Chautauqua Lake for over 50 years. It began with someone donating a rowboat, and Carl Berhardt donating \$1 in 1946. Over the years, through the kindness and generosity of local foundations, businesses, and individuals, we have developed a fleet from the one rowboat to seven harvesters, four barges, and three transport barges. Annually, the CLA harvests weeds in approximately 1,550 acres of the lake. This season, our crew, comprised of over 50 area students, have been at work from dawn to dusk. They are removing between 100 to 200 tons of weeds per day. Without their diligent efforts, enjoyment of the lake by everyone would be greatly diminished.

But our efforts aren't solely limited to removal of the weeds. The CLA has also cleaned approximately 42 miles of shoreline. All areas have been cleaned at least once, and many problem areas have been cleaned several times. CLA cleaned debris from the lake after each and every storm.

Perhaps the best example of CLA's flexibility in responding to the lake's needs occurred during the 2005 carp die-off, which began in June 2005. The publicity of the problem threatened to destroy the summer season on the lake and at Chautauqua Institution. CLA's General Manager, Paul Swanson, recognized the need for immediate action and focused all of the efforts of the Association on removal of the over 50,000 dead carp. The cleanup was completed in time to save the 4th of July weekend and the summer recreation season. No other organization exists to do the lake maintenance work and no village, town, county, or state government entity has offered to, nor has the manpower and/or equipment available to, perform this duty.



A CLA barge removes weeds from Chautauqua Lake.

However, the CLA not only provides maintenance services for the lake and its shoreline, it also has actively commissioned a five-year study with Cornell University to better understand how and why the lake changes and if a natural solution exists for controlling the weed growth. Copies of the interim Cornell reports have been placed in all of the area libraries. In a future column we will summarize the results of Cornell's study.

In closing, the CLA is a dedicated group of individuals focused on preserving and enhancing our lake and shoreline for the benefit of all.

Tad Wright
Chautauqua Lake Association President

A lake carries you into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable.

~Poet William Wordsworth

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you receive *The 'Shed Sheet* but haven't yet joined CWC?
Won't you please consider doing so?

It costs more than \$25,000 annually to produce our quarterly newsletter. We would like to continue sending this educational tool to our current mailing list but need your help to do so!

Remember...all donations are tax deductible and **every gift**, in any amount, **does make a difference.**



 * **JOIN US!** *
 * Cassadaga Creek Wetland Preserve Tour *
 * Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 to 11:00 AM *
 * Located at the end of Bloomer Road, CR 56 (accessible from Route 380 only) *
 * Boots are recommended. Moderately strenuous walking. Call 664-2166 to register. *



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



413 North Main Street
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Phone: (716) 664-2166
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