

Network News



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**Include us
in your
year-end
giving!**

See page 7.



DEC's Unconventional Gas Drilling dSGEIS

By Hilary Lambert, Steward

Please submit comments by December 31st on the draft "Supplemental Generic Environmental Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program – Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling And High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing to Develop the Marcellus Shale and Other Low-Permeability Gas Reservoirs," or dSGEIS for short.

The final SGEIS will be NY Department of Environmental Conservation's guidance document for managing some impacts of hydrofracking, the unconventional gas drilling practice that blasts deep-seated, rock-bound natural gas deposits with water and patented chemicals for extraction and use.

The Network's Issues Committee has determined that the drilling and blasting involved in hydrofracking and accompanying practices (new roads and pipelines, water withdrawals and disposal, truck traffic, noise, air pollution, etc) will have negative impacts on the Cayuga Lake watershed. Network Chair John Mawdsley provided an overview in the previous issue of the News, "Marcellus Shale drilling and blasting: A threat to the water resources of the Cayuga Lake Watershed?" We are submitting comments, as are local governments, organizations, and concerned citizens.

To inform your comments, look at the guidance provided by attorney Helen Slottje

to the Tompkins County Council of Governments at www.shaleshock.org. Click on the "Take Action Now" link. Comments prepared by other advocacy groups are available there.

View the 809-page SGEIS behemoth at www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58440.html. Paper copies are available at area libraries. To avoid getting lost, focus on chapters 6 and 7 to review proposed mitigation measures for your areas of concern. With several explanatory sentences, list issues you are concerned about or that were omitted. Subject areas include water resources, floodplains, freshwater wetlands, centralized flowback water impoundments, and more.

Submit comments online at the address above. Send written comments to: Attn: dSGEIS Comments, Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation, NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, 625 Broadway, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12233-6500.

During the 1970s, a number of projected U.S. power plants were not built because people cut back on energy use. Conservation is key to reducing our dependence on natural gas, and protecting our lake and its watershed. Go to www.SustainableTompkins.org to learn about the Finger Lakes Climate Fund and the Marcellus Challenge. The Network will keep you informed about the outcomes of the SGEIS process and ensuing developments. 🐦

**Citizen Comments
Due by Dec. 31!**

Year-End Report from the Chair

By John Mawdsley, Chair, Board of Directors

As we draw to the end of 2009 and review our activities prior to planning for 2010, we can see clear progress in difficult times.

We have managed to appoint, and now pay part time, a new Watershed Steward, Hilary Lambert, who is rapidly getting to grips with the watershed issues and making contacts with many other organizations in the spirit of our Network mission. We continue to attract good Board members with both wide experience of the communities around the watershed and of the environmental issues of concern. As most are still in mid-career, changes to their circumstances have forced some to step down – thanks

We can see clear progress in difficult times.

and best wishes to Doug Haith, Ed Harwood, Milene Morfei and Melissa Miller. We welcome Dale Baker, formerly of Sea Grant, Amy Galford of Cornell, and Dan Hill from the Cayuga Nation, to the Board. We anticipate further appointments shortly.

Also, big thanks go to Rachel Singly, our intern and summer officer manager, whose help was invaluable in moving to Wells College, helping Hilary learn her way around, and working with summer intern Jade Cassalia to ensure that our autumn fundraiser “Sunset on Cayuga” was a big success.


We adopted a revised Mission Statement in 2008 and this has been our first full year operating under it. There are two parts – identifying threats to the watershed and then advocating for sustainable solutions. As part of the threat identification, we held public conferences in the spring in Seneca Falls on weeds in the lake and in the fall in Ithaca on phosphorus loading to the lake. Both are perceived as threats by the public, and we deliberated in some detail whether and how much of a threat they are. Details of both seminars can be found on our Website, www.cayugalake.org. We held, continuing into 2010, public seminars on lake levels presented by Bill Kappel of USGS, an informative and entertaining talk on the history of lake levels fluctuations and what if anything can or should be done about them.

Professor Doug Haith, of Cornell and of our Board, completed a three year study of the loading of phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment into the lake from all the creeks in the watershed. This study has given the best estimates of these loads currently available, an invaluable addition to the information needed to manage these threats to the lake.

We have also been progressing with setting up or encouraging volunteer water quality monitors in the North end of the watershed, to try to extend the successful program in the south end. This is being done in conjunction with the Community Science

Institute. Those interested in participating should contact Hilary Lambert. And we continue to develop a full assessment of the watershed health to more clearly inform the public.

As to the advocacy for sustainable solutions, a new venture for us, we have been lucky to attract a funding grant to begin this work. It will continue into 2010 and is focused on two locations within the watershed. One at the south end of the lake is looking at improving regulation of septic systems by trying to get best practice from Cayuga County adopted in parts of Tompkins County. Poorly functioning septic systems are a danger to the creeks and to lake shore owners and the public who use the lake for recreation and water supply. At the north end of the lake, we are seeking community partners to tackle the symptoms, causes and reduction of lake-weed proliferation. Please contact our steward via steward@cayugalake.org if you want to be involved.

We are working more closely with the Floating Classroom, supporting their great efforts to educate and enthuse the kids on the importance of preserving healthy waters in both the creeks and the lake. We also are pleased with their new Ecocruises, for those of us who have left school. We hope to build on these successes for 2010. Our program will be published on our Website and presented in the next issue of the *Network News*. 

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

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Finger Lakes & Watershed Friends

By Hilary Lambert, Steward

To advocate for Cayuga Lake, the Network works with many organizational, agency and individual friends and colleagues. In this issue of the *News*, we feature the Finger Lakes Institute, the Floating Classroom and Tiohero Tours. Send in suggestions of who you'd like to know more about!

Director Marion Balyszak spoke at the FLI's recent 5 year anniversary celebration, thanking all who helped organize, fund and develop the vision needed to help the Finger Lakes Institute work toward its goals across the region.



Hilary Lambert

The Finger Lakes Institute Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

Congratulations to the Finger Lakes Institute, which recently held a reception to celebrate both their fifth anniversary and reception of an award as a 2009 ENERGY STAR Small Business Award Winner for Fighting Global Warming through Energy Efficiency and Innovation.

Situated on the Seneca Lake waterfront on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges campus in Geneva, the FLI's renovated headquarters is a center for research and action across the Finger Lakes. Their goals are to:

- Advance, coordinate, and disseminate scientific understanding about the Finger Lakes environment.
- Provide interdisciplinary training for the next generation of environmental researchers, educators, and policy makers.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for environmental information about the region.
- Enhance understanding of environmental issues by regional policy makers and the general public.
- Construct models that integrate the economic and environmental impacts of specific economic development strategies.
- Create and disseminate educational resources and opportunities at all levels.


The Network looks forward to working closely with the FLI in future, on behalf of Cayuga Lake and the Finger Lakes region. Visit their Web site at <http://fli.hws.edu>.

The Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom and Tiohero Tours

The goal of the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom Project is to provide a traveling shipboard classroom that provides educators with the necessary tools to learn about Cayuga Lake and its watershed. Affiliated with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO), Bill Foster's Floating Classroom brings educational lake tours to middle school students. Under the guidance of the ship's Captain, Dennis Montgomery, Tiohero EcoCruises are on offer for the general public from May to October.

Over the past year, the M/V *Haendel* has docked at many points around the lake to take students and the public onboard for tours, including its home berth at the Ithaca Boating Center dock on Old Taughannock Blvd., Wells College's boat dock in Aurora, the Farmers Market's Steamboat Landing in Ithaca, Taughannock Falls State Park, and other lakeside sites where teachers, students and members of the public are eager to embark and learn more about Cayuga Lake.

During 2010, the Network will be working with the Floating Classroom to promote a lakewide creek and tributary cleanup project, and you can help! Learn more on page 8.

School cruise and curriculum information can be viewed online at www.floatingclassroom.cayugawatershed.org/ or by contacting Bill Foster at floatingclassroom@cayugawatershed.org. Captain Dennis Montgomery and Tiohero Tours are online at www.tioherotours.com/speciality_tours.htm, and he can be contacted at info@tioherotours.com. 



Hilary Lambert

On an evening community cruise out of the Wells College dock in Aurora, Bill Foster discusses depth, clarity, temperature, biota and other lake health indicators, while Captain Dennis Montgomery mans the helm inside the wheelhouse.

Sunset on Cayuga a Success!

Lake Friend Farms and David Morehouse Awards presented at fundraiser



The BottomFeeders sang songs about water and boats.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network held a successful, joyous dinner-dance fundraiser at Ithaca's Lakewatch Inn on September 26, 2009. The Network's Steward Hilary Lambert is still recovering from the excitement of hosting a big room full of cheering Cayuga Lake supporters, many dancing energetically to the music of the BottomFeeders and Backtalk.

Lambert says, "The Network is here to help take care of the lake, and are thrilled at all the good folks who showed up to support us."

The Network is grateful for the support of the event's sponsors, including Tompkins Weekly, Carmel Schmidt, and Karen and Heather Philip of King Ferry. Additionally, thanks go out to the forty donors who gave generously of the goodies for the evening's exciting raffle and silent auction. A full list is provided on page 5.

Thanks also go to Rachel Singley and Jade Cassalia, our Office Manager and Summer 2009 intern who worked so hard to make this event a success, and to our new intern Andrea Muñoz. A big thank you goes to Ronda Fessenden, John Mawdsley, and Milene Morfei, Network Board members who contributed a lot of time and energy. Added



Our friends from the Floating Classroom.

excitement was provided by those who sponsored named tables, including: Riegel Marine Services, Barbara Kuhn Table, Red Tent Table (and Friends of Judy Pipher at the next table), Ladies of the Lake, Emerging Watershed Leaders, Table for Lake Friendly Farms and Morehouse Award Winners, Cayuga Farms, and Keith Tidball Table.

Lake Friendly Farms and Morehouse Award Winners

The dancing and music paused briefly for the crowning event of the evening, a ceremony at which awards were given out to those who have contributed to the continuing health and protection of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

The 2009 winner of the Lake Friendly Farms award is Sheldrake Point Vineyard, recognized for their state-approved sustainable farming practices that minimize pollutant impacts to the lake. Sheldrake Point's owners and operators Bob Madill, Chuck Tauck and Dave Weimann were unable to attend, and the award was accepted on their behalf by Mark Tucker.

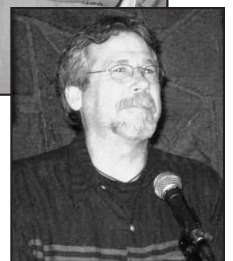
The 2009 winner of the David Morehouse Award is James C. White, one of the founders of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network in 1997. This award was established by the Morehouse family in honor of the late David Morehouse, who worked for many years on behalf of our incomparable Cayuga Lake. Presented to James White by Claire Morehouse, the award recognizes leadership and commitment from individuals or organizations to protect the health and beauty of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

James White read a "little light verse" about the lake, written specially for the occasion. It is included on page 5 for all his fans. 🐦



Above: James White accepts the Morehouse Award. From l: Rachel Singley, Claire Morehouse, James White, John Mawdsley.

Right: Mark Tucker accepts Sheldrake Point Vineyard's Lake Friendly Farm Award.



To Our Sponsors, Donors and Members

Thank you for your generosity!

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network will use donations from Sunset on Cayuga to support our internship program, to lead a creek cleanup campaign next spring, and to help watershed communities solve their water quality challenges.

A Special Thank You to...

Our Sponsors:

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Katherine Pfeffer Pross
Heirloom Picture Framing
Amelia Bloomer Gallery of
Seneca Falls



Bill Hecht

The Lake's ABCs

James White

*The Lake's an enigma,
She's hard to explain
Her moods can be many
In sunshine and rain.*

*To simplify matters
And do it with ease,
This doggerel follows
The Lake's ABCs.*

*Note as you listen
How we have met,
The use of all letters
In our alphabet.*

So----

*She can be Alarming
But Beautiful too,
Calm or Destructive
With Elegant hue.*

*She's Fulsome or colored,
So Grand in the fall.
She can be Horrible
In view of us all.*

*Don't take her lightly
In word or in Jest,
She can be a Killer,
When wind's from the west.*

*In spring she is Lovely,
In summer there's Mist,
With Natural beauty
Her face has been kissed.*

*In winter she's Open and
Pretty and Quiet
Rough, Smooth and Tricky
While geese over fly it.*

*She's Unusual and Vicious,
Warm, Windy and Wet,
But Xcellent sailing,
The best you have met.*

*Her weeds can be Yucky,
Her Zebras grow fast
And that is her alphabet,
We're through it at last!*



The Red Tent Table, with tempting silent auction items nearby.



The Lake Friendly Farms and Morehouse Award Table.



Back Talk closes out a great evening.



Dancing to Back Talk.

UPCOMING EVENTS in 2010

Building on Our Success in 2009

The Network's Program Committee is meeting during December to develop a roster of new, free public events for 2010. The annual goal is to hold a spring conference around the northern end of the lake, and a fall conference around the southern end of the lake, on topics of interest and concern for watershed residents, along with a traveling roadshow that visits several locations during the year.

The 2009 spring conference, co-sponsored by the CLW Intermunicipal Organization (IO), was held at the Red Jacket Firehouse just south of Seneca Falls on the topic of "Aquatic Weeds: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," as reported in our last issue. Since then, the Network has released an illustrated guide for dealing with lake plants, wanted and unwanted. This booklet, "Aquatic Weeds – Nuisance and Necessity," is available for viewing and printing at our Web site (at www.cayugalake.org, scroll down and click on the link with that title). A CD or paper copy will be mailed to you on request. The fall 2009 conference, also co-sponsored by the IO, was held in Ithaca on the hot topic of "Phosphorus in Cayuga Lake." Please see the related article below.

The committee will also discuss a new "roadshow" topic with multiple appearances around the lake, although our 2009 roadshow performer, Bill Kappel (US Geological Survey hydrogeologist), is still going strong with his great presentation about "Lake Levels," the history of their ups and downs, and the reasons why. He has presented at the Tompkins County History Center in Ithaca in tandem with their display on the history of the lake, at the Americana Vineyard Winery in Interlaken, and at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge – and a big thanks goes to these groups and to the IO for their co-sponsorship.

In 2010, look for Bill Kappel's "Lake Levels" at 7 pm on April 28, 2010 at Lansing Town Hall, in conjunction with an art and photo exhibit at the Lansing Public Library and co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Ecology Association (FLEA).

We'll let Network members know about other 2010 events via the Web site, the next issue of the News, and via our listserv. To be added to the CWN listserv (we promise to not inundate you with messages!), contact Judy Pipher at jlphiper@astro.pas.rochester.edu. 🐦

Half-day conference in Ithaca

Phosphorus Inputs into Cayuga Lake



Presenters and panelists at the Phosphorus conference, from left: Todd Walter, Doug Haith, Bob Johnson, Todd Cowan, Jose Lozano, Steve Penningroth, and Roxy Johnston.

In 2008, the NY Department of Environmental Conservation reaffirmed that the south end of Cayuga Lake is "Impaired" by excess phosphorus, sediment, and pathogens. Essential for plant growth and biological function, too much phosphorus leads to algae and weed growth, a recurring problem along the lake. Phosphorus is used in pesticides, fertilizers, and animal food additives.

A free public half-day conference, "Phosphorus into Cayuga Lake," was held in Ithaca on October 24, co-sponsored by the Network and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization. Roxy Johnston, City of Ithaca, and Steve Penningroth, Community Science Institute, presented results of monitoring phosphorus in creeks. Doug Haith and Todd Walter, both of Cornell University, presented results of modeling of phosphorus

loads into the lake from creeks. A panel discussion also included Jose Lozano of the City of Ithaca, and Bob Johnson and Todd Cowen of Cornell University. John Halfman, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, presented a poster on his research. The presentations are available at www.cayugalake.org.

The panelists concurred that, while they do not think Cornell University's Lake Source Cooling project is contributing significantly to the lake's impairment, they don't yet know enough about the sources, pathways, quantities, and impacts of phosphorus to make recommendations for action at the southern end of the lake.

Although many Ithacans dream of swimming at Stewart Park in a cleaner lake, comments suggested that present-day phosphorus and sediment levels are not necessarily indicators of an unhealthy lake. Doug Haith sounded a warning that, by focusing on phosphorus, researchers may be missing big impacts to the lake from the invasive species that have arrived in recent decades, including Eurasian water milfoil, Zebra and Quagga mussels, Fishhook and spiny water fleas, and lampreys. *The forms and functions of phosphorus are explained in Roxy Johnston's "The Role of Phosphorus in Cayuga Lake," Network News 2009/1, viewable at our Website. Click on News & Events >Events>Newsletter Archives.* 🐦

Please Join or Donate to the Network

Memberships make good gifts!



Remember us for year-end charitable giving.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network has a number of lively, lake-advocacy events and projects planned for 2010. These are made possible by grants and support from people, organizations and businesses concerned about Cayuga Lake and its watershed.

Times are tough, and big changes are facing the watershed with the potential start-up of unconventional gas drilling in 2010. Help us protect our lake!

Do you know someone who loves Cayuga Lake, but lives far away?

A gift membership will bring them closer.

Please consider joining and supporting our network to help protect the vitality of our watershed. Joining or donating is easy to do!

MAIL: Fill out the information below, select a donation level, and mail the form with your check to Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, P.O. Box 348, Aurora, NY 13026

PAYPAL: Join via your PayPal account or credit card online at www.cayugalake.org

As a member, you will receive a subscription to Network News, our quarterly newsletter, discounts on educational programs, invitations to events. Your membership shows that you appreciate the beauty and vitality of Cayuga Lake and its watershed and the need to protect these natural resources.

- I am joining the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network for the first time with my enclosed contribution.
- I am renewing my membership with the enclosed contribution.
- Send a gift membership to the person listed below, and send me a gift card to give them.
- Enclosed is my year-end donation; send me a charitable donation letter for tax purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ May we add you to our listserv? Yes No

Please Select the Support Level You Prefer:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Thank you for your support!!!

Your Contributions to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network are tax deductible.

Your Help Needed in 2010!

Public Events and Lakewide Cleanup, Celebration

The Network's Steward Hilary Lambert is looking for a few good volunteers to help with public events in 2010. First, we need help with our Enviroscope and display at community events around the lake. In 2009 the Network showed up with its display, handouts, and Enviroscope demonstrations at about a dozen public events. Please contact steward@cayugalake.org if you could spare a half-day or two next year to help support this fun outreach activity.

Secondly, we need help to commemorate the 40th anniversary of

Earth Day on April 25 and into the following spring and summer months. According to Doug Haith and colleagues' 2009 report, 34 major creeks and their tributaries drain into Cayuga Lake, along with numerous small direct streams. During April and into the warmer months, the Network is developing a lake-round series of creek and lake waterfront cleanups in as many of those watersheds as possible, along with a lake weed-pull event or two, if folks are up for that.

If you are a resident of a creek watershed on the following list, we

need your help to contact Scout troops, church and community and school groups, and help us organize cleanups and Earth Day celebrations watershed-wide. Established watershed groups especially welcome!

To date, our co-sponsor for this rolling event is the Ithaca-based Center for Environmental Sustainability. If your community organization or business is interested in being a co-sponsor, please get in touch. Contact steward@cayugalake.org for more information and to get involved. 

Cayuga Lake's 34 Major Subwatersheds — Which One is Yours?

Barnum Creek Area	Cayuga Village Area	Hicks Gully	Minnegar Creek Area	Trumansburg Creek
Big Hollow Area	Fall Creek	Interlaken Area	Paines Creek	Union Springs Area
Bloomer/Mack Creeks Area	Glen/Dean Creeks Area	King Ferry Station Area	Red Creek	Willow Creek Area
Canoga Creek Area	Glenwood Creek Area	Lake Ridge Point Area	Salmon Creek	Yawger Creek
Cascadilla Creek	Great Gully	Lansing Area	Schuyler Creek Area	
Cayuga Inlet	Groves/Powell Creeks Area	Lavanna Area	Sheldrake Creek	
Cayuga View Area	Gulf Creek Area	Little Creek Area	Six Mile Creek	
		McDuffie Town Area	Taughannock Creek	

The Mission... *The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.*



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