



Great Lakes Splash!

*The Latest News & Events from New York Sea Grant's Great Lakes Extension
February 2010*

O'Neill Named NYSG Interim Associate Director

Charles "Chuck" O'Neill has been named Interim Associate Director of New York Sea Grant effective February 1, 2010.

"I look forward to the opportunity to assist Director Jim Ammerman with educating stakeholders and legislators about the importance of New York Sea Grant. In my nearly 30 years of environmental service, I have seen the success of the paradigm that connects New York Sea Grant's professional educators with topnotch scientists and delivers outreach education programs in a form that a wide variety of audiences can use to effectuate positive change," O'Neill says. "New York Sea Grant is one of the premier Sea Grant programs in the nation and has a professional, committed extension staff second to none."

O'Neill will continue to maintain his nationally-recognized leadership in the area of invasive species in addition to his new administrative and management responsibilities as Interim Associate Director. O'Neill is the founder of the New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse.

More info: www.seagrantsunysb.edu/ais/article.asp?ArticleID=421
New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse: <http://nyis.info>

A First for New York State: Young Deaf Boater Safety Training Starts at CNY Boat Show February 10-14, 2010

New York Sea Grant and the Boating Industry Association of Upstate New York are partnering with AURORA of CNY to offer Deaf youth boater safety training in American Sign Language (ASL) at the February 10-14, 2010 CNY Boat Show in Syracuse, NY. By request from the Deaf community, the training was expanded to include families with Deaf members.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation sponsors the New York safe boating courses and Director of Marine Services Brian Kempf says, "This new training for the Deaf is a first for New York State. Deaf individuals have taken the course with their own interpreters. This is the first time formal training has been offered with interpreter signing for the entire class."

More info/ASL-facilitated press release: www.nysgextension.org, 315-312-3042

"Discover Clean & Safe Boating" Vessel at CNY Boat Show

New York Sea Grant and the Marathon Boat Group will present the "Discover Clean & Safe Boating" vessel at the Boating Information Center at the February 10–14, 2010 Central New York Boat Show in Syracuse, NY. The Grumman aluminum pontoon boat made in Marathon, NY, is tagged with all the gear needed to properly and legally equip a pleasure boat to be on NY waters.

The "Discover Clean & Safe Boating" vessel with vital information on boating safety and regulations, cross-border boating, and New York's terrific boating, diving and fishing destinations will visit other boating-related and waterfront events in 2010.

More info: <http://www.cnyboatshow.com>

Annual Young Boater Certification Offered February 11 & 13

Youth from 10 to 17 years old who want to legally operate a boat alone on NY waters in 2010 may complete a Young Boater's Safety Certification Course being offered at the Central New York Boat Show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. New York Sea Grant and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary are teaching the course that begins Thursday, February 11, 6–8:30pm, and ends on Saturday, February 13, 10am–3:30pm. Pre-registration is required. Course is free.

More info and registration: 315–312–3042, <http://www.cnyboatshow.com>

"Barrier Dunes of Eastern Lake Ontario" to Air February 28

Dr. Michael Ameigh, Assistant Provost at SUNY Oswego, has produced "Barrier Dunes of Eastern Lake Ontario," a half-hour documentary that premieres Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 3pm and repeats at 10:30pm on WCNY Public Television Channel 24 and Time Warner Digital Channel 850, Syracuse, NY.

The video showcases the natural resource area with people enjoying the lakeside recreational playground by beach, boat, kayak, sailboat, canoe and personal watercraft, and by hiking, fishing and swimming.

Ameigh's thoughtful narrative places a special focus on the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Stewards that interact with shoreline users to enhance understanding of the fragile environment. Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney provided technical review for the documentary, and says, "I am thrilled Dr. Ameigh has highlighted the Stewards' educational efforts and offered tips for properly enjoying this rare and critical resource area."

More info: <http://www.nysgdunes.org>

Great Lakes' Oldest Confirmed Shipwreck Featured at March 6 Great Lakes Underwater 2010

Deep wreck explorer Jim Kennard will share a video and the exciting details of how he and diving partner Dan Scoville located the Great Lakes' oldest confirmed shipwreck, *HMS Ontario*, at the March 6, 2010, Great Lakes Underwater conference at SUNY Oswego.

The video of the 229-year-old, 80-foot-long, 22-gun British warship that sank during the American Revolution in 1780 reveals how well Lake Ontario's deep, cool water has preserved two crow's nests, carved bow, quarter galleries, anchors and upright masts.

Great Lakes Underwater is hosted by New York Sea Grant and the Oswego Maritime Foundation and co-sponsored by Great Lakes Seaway Trail, Sackets Harbor, NY.

More info/registration: \$25 (\$20/student) includes lunch, 315-312-3042,
<http://www.oswegomaritime.org/glu.html>

Seeking College Students for Exciting Employment Opportunities

The Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Steward Program is seeking enthusiastic college students for employment: up to 10 positions* may be available starting May 26, 2010, for the summer with up to 3 positions* beginning August 26, 2010, for the late summer-fall months.

Stewards promote responsible public use of fragile and unique ecosystems in Oswego and Jefferson counties through newspaper articles, the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewardship Blog, and educational programs. The stewards gain "real world experience" and knowledge to enhance their resumes. New York Sea Grant manages the Steward Program in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and New York State Parks.

**All positions are pending funding.*

More info: Steward position descriptions and Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetlands Area info: <http://www.nysgdunes.org>; submit resume to Mary Penney, Steward Program Coordinator, New York Sea Grant, mp357@cornell.edu

Impact Statements Show Depth of Great Lakes Learning Opportunities

New York Sea Grant has recently issued its 2010 impact statements series that offers a summary of the previous year's programming. Educational efforts along the Great Lakes shoreline of New York in 2009 included the following:

- "teaching the teachers" how to instruct students about shoreline science through hands-on training along the Great Lakes, distance learning programs, and science exploration days
- sharing trawling technology design and use expertise with international partners
- communicating Cornell University's Drs. Paul Bowser and James Casey's research on ways to prevent and contain the VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) virus in fish
- providing a new-in-2009 Lake Ontario water levels update resource
- informing audiences about the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Salmon River ecosystems through a new-in-2009 stewardship blog
- celebrating New York's freshwater maritime heritage and scuba diving opportunities through the three-time award-winning Great Lakes Seaway Trail Shipwrecks and Dive the Seaway Trail project
- networking with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and specialists nationwide on climate change extension.

More info: <http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/article.asp?ArticleID=116>; click on Extension Success Stories 2010

Shipwrecks Project Wins National Award

A New York Sea Grant-funded study in 1999 identified diving's \$108-plus million impact on NY's Great Lakes' regional economy, showing opportunity to interpret and market the region to divers. In 2009, NYSG, the Great Lakes Seaway Trail and the New York State Department of Transportation Scenic Byway Program received a National Scenic Byway award for the "Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail" project at the National Scenic Byways conference in Denver.

The Federal Highway Administration, America's Byways Resource Center, and American Association for the State Highway Transportation Officials presented the award recognizing the project for partnerships, public outreach, community involvement, and innovation.

More info: http://www.seawaytrail.com/Press_Room/2009/press090901.html

Lake Ontario Exploration Teachers' Workshop July 25-30, 2010

From July 25-30, 2010, the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes will host 15 selected educators to learn from lake scientists at research sites on the Niagara River and in Rochester, Oswego and other locations along New York's Lake Ontario shoreline.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) invites 4th through 10th grade teachers and non-formal educators from the Great Lakes region to take part in this National Science Foundation and NOAA-sponsored event. NYSG Coastal Education Specialist Helen Domske leads this week-long experiential workshop.

More info: hmd4@cornell.edu

Teachers' Resources Online

New York Sea Grant uses hand-on workshops and a "teach the teacher" approach to extend science-based learning through teachers to students throughout New York's Great Lakes region. Topics include critical environmental issues such as water quality and invasive species. NYSG Great Lakes partners with the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lakes, the National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Sea Grant College Program, University at Buffalo, Buffalo Museum of Science and others to make programs possible.

More info: <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/article.asp?ArticleID=51>

NYSG Proactive on Climate Change

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is currently the only Sea Grant program in the U.S. actively engaged in climate change outreach coordination in both Great Lakes and marine program environments. NYSG has developed an extensive literature compilation that was disseminated to climate change specialists in the National Office and Sea Grant extension counterparts in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf Coast and Pacific Sea Grant networks, including Alaska and Hawaii.

To help communities deal with issues such as flooding, erosion and storm surge, NYSG has worked with Cornell University and NOAA's Regional Climate Center to develop the East Coast Winter Storms Climatological and Forecasting Web site.

More info: <http://nywinterstorm.org>

International Partnership Creates Trawl Technology Success

In 2008, Dr. Tomas Juza from the Hydrobiology Institute at Cseka Budejovice attended a trawling gear design workshop organized by New York and Rhode Island Sea Grant programs and the Memorial University of Newfoundland. To facilitate his learning, NYSG also introduced Juza to trawl sampling with Lakes Erie and Ontario fisheries assessment staff. He took photos and detailed calculations back to the Czech Republic that now uses a new trawl vessel combination and a revised sampling protocol.

In 2009, Juza reported, "This year was breakthrough in trawling for adult fish in the Czech Republic. With special thanks to NY Sea Grant... the trawling project in the Czech Republic is developing very well."

More info: <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/article.asp?ArticleID=116>; click on Extension Success Stories for 2010 and scroll to Trawling Technology impact statement

Remembering a Good Friend: Tony Kotz

Countless volunteers give time, talent and resources to the environmental concerns of New York's Great Lakes shoreline. We recently lost a good friend with the December 18th passing of Anthony "Tony" Kotz. As a professional landscape architect, Tony was involved with many parks and recreational facilities projects and won awards for his designs. We are grateful for his service as an advisor to the NYSG Institute Program Advisory Council and 25 years as chair or vice-chair of The Ontario Dune Coalition. He will be missed.

Mark Your 2010 Calendar

See items above for the following events

February 10–14: Central New York Boat Show, Syracuse; <http://www.cnyboatshow.com>

February 10, 12, 24, 26: Young Deaf Boater Certification Course begins at CNY Boat Show, Syracuse, NY; <http://www.cnyboatshow.com>

February 11, 13: Annual Young Boater Certification Course at CNY Boat Show, Syracuse, NY; <http://www.cnyboatshow.com>

March 6: 2010: Great Lakes Underwater, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY;
<http://www.oswegomaritime.org/glu.html>

July 25–30, 2010: Lake Ontario Exploration Teachers' Workshop: hmd4@cornell.edu

New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Extension

Find us on the web at <http://www.nysgextension.org> and
At SUNY–Oswego, Oswego, NY, 315–342–2042

- Recreation and Tourism Specialist David G. White
- Fisheries Specialist David B. MacNeill
- Eastern Lake Ontario Dune & Salmon River Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney

At SUNY–Brockport, Brockport, NY, 585–395–2638

- NYSG Interim Associate Director and Coastal Resources and Invasive Species Specialist Chuck O'Neill

At SUNY–Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, 716–645–3610

- Coastal Education Specialist Helen M. Domske

New York Sea Grant is pleased to share this edition of Great Lakes Splash! with you. Watch for more exciting news from the Great Lakes shoreline of NY soon!