



Great Lakes Splash!

*The Latest News from New York Sea Grant's Great Lakes Extension
May 2008*

2008 Cross-Border Travel Tips Now Online

To facilitate cross-border travel, Seaway Trail, Inc. and New York Sea Grant have worked in partnership with U.S. and Canadian border officials to issue the 2008 edition of Cross-Border Travel Tips for Recreational Boaters, RV Owners and Motorists. The tips include the acceptable single and combined forms of IDs and resources for such travel documents as enhanced driver's licenses. Contact resources are listed for the seven international bridges, Ports of Entry, and Horne's International Ferry. Pleasure boaters and frequent travelers between Canada and the U.S. will find basic info and resources in the brochure, including resources for checking auto crossing wait times. The Tips identify the 20 of 23 Seaway Trail ports in NY and PA equipped with videophones for reporting boat arrivals.

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

It's Time to Dive the Seaway Trail

The secret is out – the freshwater environment of the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River and Lake Erie in New York and Pennsylvania – provides some of the best scuba diving opportunities. Divers are learning about this underwater world filled with shipwrecks, “sea life” and unique rock formations through the Dive the Seaway Trail project, a collaboration between New York Sea Grant and Seaway Trail, Inc. The project involves a series of dive sites that are marked, buoyed and maintained by community-based stewards and a series of land-based interpretive signs sharing the legends, lore and facts of selected shipwrecks that await divers in nearby waters.

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

NYSG holds GLRRIN meetings in U.S. and Canada

Approximately 100 US and Canadian participants attended Lake Ontario Great Lakes Regional Research Information Network (GLRRIN) workshops organized by New York Sea Grant. GLRRIN is a project funded by Sea Grant's parent agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to solicit stakeholder input on specific research and information needs for each of the Great Lakes. Meetings in Grand Island, NY, and Gananoque, Ontario, were used to incorporate diverse stakeholder opinions, develop a shared history of Lake Ontario, and identify the desired and likely futures of the ecosystem. Information needs were identified to help shape the ecosystem to the desired future state through such measures as better management for sustainable recreational and commercial

economies, prevention of invasive species, reduction of toxic contaminants in fish and wildlife, and improvement of the environmental health of the ecosystem.

Members of the Lake Ontario GLRRIN conference planning team included Tom Brown of Cornell University's Human Dimensions Research Unit, New York Sea Grant Associate Director Dale Baker and Fisheries Specialist Dave MacNeill, Dr. Tim Johnson of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Dr. Gary Sprules of the University of Toronto, Dr. Jim Johnson of the USGS Fisheries Lab, and retired New York Sea Grant Director Dr. Jack Mattice. A detailed report now in preparation by workshop facilitators Bruce Lauber and Tom Brown will be posted at www.glrrin.info.

More info: <http://www.glrrin.info>

Understanding Uncertainties: New Fact Sheet from NY Sea Grant

Large-scale ecosystem changes in the Great Lakes have us pondering what the future holds for fish and wildlife populations. The processes that drive the natural world are complex, subject to fluctuations year to year, and beyond complete human control or intervention. As a result, our ability to make predictions on the trajectories of these processes is often inaccurate or completely wrong. Scientists often use the term uncertainty to describe this situation. A new, 8-page fact sheet from NY Sea Grant – Understanding Risks and Uncertainties in Fisheries by Fisheries Specialist Dave MacNeill – frames the uncertainty concept in an understandable format for stakeholders. The fact sheet summarizes the concept and sources of uncertainties in nature and describes tools that can help address uncertainties in fisheries management.

More info: <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/pages/GLFishUncertainties.pdf>

Educators and the Erie Canal 2008

New York Sea Grant is offering two workshops this summer in conjunction with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to educate teachers about the Erie Canal and the role it plays in the introduction of aquatic invasive species. The workshops are designed for teachers in grades 4–12 and non-formal educators. The free workshops include instruction, hands-on activities and boat rides in Lockport and Spencerport, NY. Although the dates have not yet been finalized, educators are invited to contact Helen Domske (hmd4@cornell.edu) for details.

More info: hmd4@cornell.edu

Blogs Share Story of Teacher Courses on the Great Lakes and the Ocean

The teachers participating in two unique water-based learning opportunities this summer will be sharing their stories through blogs. Thirty teachers will be attending the programs offered by New York Sea Grant and the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Great Lake. From July 13–19, the educators will spend a week aboard the US Environmental Protection Agency's *Peter Wise Lake Guardian* research vessel learning and collecting data about Lake Ontario. From August 9–16, the educators will travel to Roatan, Honduras, to learn about tropical marine ecology. Interested parties are invited to “learn from a distance” through the online journaling created by the teachers.

More info: <http://www.coseegreatlakes.net> or <http://tme08.blogspot.com>

Eastern Lake Ontario Dune & Salmon River Steward Program Series Set for June – October

Spend some time with the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards during their 2008 Stewardship Program Series. Take a guided walk at one of the Wildlife Management Areas along the

Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands Area (ELOWDA) or Salmon River Falls Unique Area. Topics of past programs include Wintering Bald Eagles in the Salmon River corridor, Adaptations of Migratory Birds, Knowing and Going with the Flows of the Salmon River, Invasive Species: Water Chestnut, and Cool Critters of the Salmon River corridor. All programs are free and approximately 1 hour long. Watch local newspapers for dates and times or contact Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney at New York Sea Grant at 315-312-3012. The Steward Program is a cooperative effort of New York Sea Grant, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks and The Nature Conservancy.

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

Dune Stewards, Nature Conservancy, Seaway Trail Offer Tandem Program for 1st National Get Outdoors USA Day

On Saturday, June 14 – the first National Get Outdoors Day – the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards Program, The Nature Conservancy and the Seaway Trail Foundation will offer a combined information program and guided walk for those who like birds and the outdoors. At 10 am Chris Lajewski of The Nature Conservancy will speak on The Birds of Black Pond at the Seaway Trail Discovery Center in Sackets Harbor, NY (\$5 admission benefits Seaway Trail Foundation). At 2 pm the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Steward Program will offer a free guided Woodlands & Wetlands Walk at Black Pond Wildlife Management Area located off the Route 3 section of the Seaway Trail, one of America's Byways and a federally designated National Recreation Trail. Walk-in or register for morning program at 315-646-1000; arrive or register for the afternoon walk at 315-312-3042.

More info on morning program: <http://www.seawaytrail.com>

More info on afternoon walk: <http://www.nysgdunes.org>

Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands DVD Available This Summer

The new, short (about 20 minutes) Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands DVD provides an overview of the nearly 17-mile barrier dune system and focuses on key issues of concern to those working to protect and preserve this vital environmental system. To enjoy the beautiful scenery and learn how you can protect these areas for future generations while still enjoying them, get your copy today! Copies are available for \$10 each.

More info: 315-312-3042

Aquatic Invasive Species Info Online

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) fact sheets provide information to help resource managers and landowners cope with noxious and troublesome invasive species. Go online to the NYSG Aquatic Invasive Species website to find and download the following resources – each with color photos and print and Web references:

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*): Poisonous Invader of the Northeast, CR O'Neill. 2006. This 8-page factsheet discusses New York State's most striking, and dangerous, invasive plant, the giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) with information on the plant's history and distribution, biology and habitat, keys for identification (and for telling this plant from several more common look-alikes), ecological and human health impacts, and control technologies.

European Frog-Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*): Floating Invader of Great Lakes Basin Waters, CR O'Neill. 2007. This 4-page factsheet takes a look at this emergent plant that resembles miniature water lilies and has started to aggressively increase its range in Quebec and New York. The publication addresses identification, biology, distribution, habitat, impacts, management and control technologies.

Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) in the Northeast, CR O'Neill. 2006. This 4-page factsheet discusses a major water-fouling aquatic invasive plant, the water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), but not the kind you find in grocery stores sliced in cans. The publication addresses identification and biology; distribution; physical, ecological and economic impacts; and control technologies.

More info: <http://www.nysgextension.org/ans/anspages/AIPlants.html>

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NYSG A Partner in Great Lakes-based PRISMS

PRISM is the acronym for Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. Eight PRISMs were formed following a New York State Invasive Species Task Force recommendation to the Governor and Legislature to establish a means whereby state agencies and local and regional grassroots project leaders could work together to foster a statewide invasive species response. The geographically designated PRISMS include landowners, private and public land managers and educators. The PRISM goal is to promote cooperative efforts to manage invasive species of all kinds through an integrated approach of protecting or restoring desired native species communities through invasive species prevention, early detection, and rapid response. Outreach education, and control and management efforts. Invasive species: aquatic and terrestrial, plants, animals and pathogens are targeted. The eight PRISMS are the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Capital/Mohawk PRISM, Catskill Region Invasive Species Program, Finger Lakes PRISM, Long Island Invasive Species Management Area, Lower Hudson PRISM, St. Lawrence-Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) PRISM, and Western NY PRISM. New York Sea Grant and its Aquatic Invasive Species project are among the partners in each PRISM with a Great Lakes, marine or estuarine coast.

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

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Mark Your Calendar with These Important Dates

June 14, 2008 – National Get Outdoors Day

The Birds of Black Pond Presentation and Guided Walk

10 am, The Nature Conservancy presents a visual program at the Seaway Trail Discovery Center, Sackets Harbor, \$5 admission benefits Seaway Trail Foundation; at 2 pm enjoy a free guided walk at Black Pond Wildlife Management Area with the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Stewards Program. This program has been designated a first-ever National Get Outdoors Day program and the first in New York.

More info: <http://www.seawaytrail.com> and <http://www.nysgdunes.org>

June to October

Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Salmon River Steward Programs

Free, approximately one-hour programs cover diverse topics from dunes habitat and recreational opportunities to birding, fish and invasive species.

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

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New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Extension

Find us on the web at <http://www.nysgextension.org>

and

at SUNY-Oswego

Recreation and Tourism Specialist David G. White

Fisheries Specialist David B. MacNeill

Eastern Lake Ontario Dune & Salmon River Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney

Oswego, NY 13126

315-312-3042

at SUNY-Brockport

Coastal Resources and Invasive Species Specialist Charles O'Neill, Jr.
Brockport, NY 14420-2928
585-395-2638

at SUNY-Buffalo

Coastal Education Specialist Helen M. Domske
Buffalo, NY 14260-4400
716-645-3610

New York Sea Grant is pleased to share this edition of Great Lakes Splash! with you. We look forward to providing more exciting news from the Great Lakes shoreline of New York soon!