



Great Lakes Splash!

*The Latest News & Events from New York Sea Grant's Great Lakes Extension
July 2009*

NYSG, Great Lakes Seaway Trail Presenting at National Scenic Byway Conference

New York Sea Grant's Dave White and Great Lakes Seaway Trail Executive Director Teresa Mitchell will make a joint presentation at the National Scenic Byway Conference in Denver August 23-26. The topic will be how to revitalize a brand to benefit a byway, the businesses, attractions, services and residents along the byway, and the byway organization. One of the early results of the ongoing branding process for the 518-mile byway that parallels the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River and Lake Erie in New York and Pennsylvania is adding Great Lakes to the Seaway Trail name for broader geographical identity.

More info: <http://www.bywaysresourcecenter.org/events/conferences/>

Military TV Features Steward Program

Drum TV is the military television station serving Fort Drum and the greater Watertown, NY, area. On Friday, July 24, soldier-reporter Sam Dillon aired his feature story developed from spending a day with the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards. Dillon and Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney toured the public access resource areas along the Eastern shore of Lake Ontario and Dillon interviewed the 2009 Dune Stewards. His report was enhanced with scenic footage of the Salmon River Falls Unique Area and information from the Fort Drum recreational services staff about how to rent kayaks, canoes and motorized boats to enjoy the region's natural resources.

More info: <http://www.drum.army.mil/drumtv>

NYSG Dive Theme Partnerships Noted by Coastal Services

The July/August 2009 issue of Coastal Services Magazine published by NOAA profiles the partnerships developed by New York Sea Grant to promote the diving and shipwrecks resources of New York's Great Lakes. The project includes the annual spring Great Lakes Underwater conference in partnership with the Oswego Maritime Foundation and development of the Dive the Great Lakes dive sites and dive theme outdoor storyteller signage system with the Great Lakes Seaway Trail.

More info: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/magazine/>

NYSG Issues Great Lakes-wide Cross Border Boating Tips

To facilitate the most current understanding of Canada-U.S. cross-border travel requirements, New York Sea Grant and the Northern Association of Boating Administrators (NABA), with assistance from U.S. and Canadian border crossing officials, published the first-ever edition of Great Lakes Cross-Border Travel Tips for Recreational Boaters in May 2009.

The Tips, updated online at www.nysgextension.org, include the latest info on acceptable personal identification documents, contacts for ports of call in all eight Great Lakes states, (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota) and information sources for "Know Before You Go," Customs, boat trailering, boat safety and travel/vacation points.

The model for the Great Lakes-wide resource is the Cross-Border Travel Tips for Recreational Boaters, RV Owners & Motorists Traveling the Great Lakes Seaway Trail published since 2002 by New York Sea Grant and the nonprofit tourism organization Seaway Trail, Inc., Sackets Harbor, NY.

More info: www.nysgextension.org

Eastern Lake Ontario Dune & Salmon River Stewards Are Bloggin'!

The Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards are writing a weekly blog. What is a blog, you ask? It's a type of website with regular entries, descriptions of events, and/or other items such as graphics or videos. This blog highlights what the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards encounter each day. Some postings spotlight special events such as Dune Fest, Oswego County Fair, and Harborfest. Other postings spotlight the stewards' daily activities as they monitor sites that provide public access along Eastern Lake Ontario, including Sandy Pond Beach Natural Area and Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, and the Salmon River corridor, including Salmon River Falls Unique Area and Salmon River Reservoir. New entries each week!

More info: <http://www.elodsrstewardprogram.blogspot.com/>

2009 Steward Educational Programs Continue

This year the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards are offering a series of free tours and educational programs. The Stewards advertise their programs in newspaper articles published in the Oswego and Jefferson County weekly newspapers. Look for "News from the Dunes" and "News from the River" headlines.

Upcoming 2009 season tours include:

- August 13, 10am, Beachgrass vs. Turf Grass & Salmon River Bank Erosion, Black Pond Wildlife Management Area
- Date/time TBD, The Trees of ELODWA (Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetlands Area)

To join the fun, or to schedule your own tour, contact Steward Program Coordinator Mary Penney, New York Sea Grant, 315.312.3042, mp357@cornell.edu.

New York Sea Grant manages the Steward Program in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, and The Nature Conservancy.

More info: www.nysgdunes.org, <http://www.elodsrstewardprogram.blogspot.com/>

August Teachers' Workshop: Exploring the Link between Invasive Species & the Erie Canal

New York Sea Grant and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are offering a free, day-long workshop for teachers (Grades 4–12) in Spencerport, NY. The workshop runs from 10:00 am–3:00pm on Wednesday, August 26, at the Spencerport Trolley Museum and aboard the *Rose Lummis*, www.roselummis.com. Teachers will learn about the Erie Canal and invasive species and how they and their students can help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. The workshop is supported by COSEE Great Lakes. Space is limited to 25 formal and non-formal educators.

More info/reservations: Ellen George, elg7@cornell.edu, 716-645-3610

October 14 Lake Erie Teachers' Workshop

On Wednesday, October 14th, from 4:00–6:00 pm, at Tifft Nature Preserve, just south of Buffalo, New York Sea Grant will join with Lauren Makeyenko of the Buffalo Museum of Science (<http://www.sciencebuff.org/tifft-nature-preserve/>) to offer a teachers workshop on Lake Erie. This free workshop, supported by COSEE Great Lakes, will feature educational materials to help teach about this important Great Lake.

More info/reservations: Ellen George, elg7@cornell.edu, 716-645-3610

NYSG Lake Ontario Water Levels Update Now Available as Electronic Fact Sheet

New York Sea Grant's new electronic fact sheet "Lake Ontario Water Levels Update" is now available as a downloadable/printable Acrobat file directly from the New York Sea Grant website at http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/glcoastal/WaterLevels-LOnt/Lake_Level_Update.pdf

The Update contains information and graphs on:

- current Lake Ontario water levels in the lake with previous and current years
- 20th century average levels
- historic high and low levels
- water level forecast as far as five months into the future
- data on daily inflows and weekly average outflows
- daily deviations from long-term daily average levels; and
- a chart showing actual measured water levels against long-term monthly high and low levels of Lake Ontario for 30 years.

Check for updates monthly during the ice-free months and bi-monthly during the winter.

More info: Chuck O'Neill, cro4@cornell.edu, 585-395-2638

NYSG Invasive Species Site (NYIS.info) is Go-To Portal for Emerald Ash Borer Info

With the announcement by New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis of the discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in NY, New York Sea Grant's "New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse" has become the go-to portal to all New York State resources on the small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white, black and blue ash. NYSG's Invasive Species Specialist Chuck O'Neill manages the site.

More info on EAB and other invasive species in New York State: <http://nyis.info>.

Fish Habitat Factsheets Coming Soon!

A new series of fish habitat factsheets is nearing completion to help anglers, landowners and researchers develop collaborative projects to improve habitat for Northern pike, muskellunge and walleye. The series written by New York Sea Grant (NYSG) Fisheries Specialist David B. MacNeill is a collaboration by the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York Sea Grant, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, & SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry.

More info: dmb4@cornell.edu

Mark Your 2009 Calendar with These Important Dates

August 13 – Beachgrass vs. Turf Grass & Salmon River Bank Erosion: Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Steward and Salmon River Steward Program, 10am, Black Pond Wildlife Management Area, Town of Ellisburg – More info: www.nysgdunes.org

Date/time TBD – The Trees of ELODWA: Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Steward Program – More info: www.nysgdunes.org

Aug 26 – Teachers' Workshop: Exploring the Link between Invasive Species and the Erie Canal: New York Sea Grant and US Fish & Wildlife Service program, free, 10am–3pm, for Grade 4–12 teachers, Spencerport Trolley Museum and aboard *Rose Lummis*, Spencerport, NY – More info/reservations: Ellen George, elg7@cornell.edu, 716–645–3610

Oct 14 – Lake Erie Teachers' Workshop: New York Sea Grant and Buffalo Museum of Science, COSEE-supported, free, 4–6pm, Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo, NY – More info/reservations: Ellen George, elg7@cornell.edu, 716–645–3610

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

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at **SUNY–Brockport**

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at **SUNY–Buffalo**

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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!