



# Great Lakes Splash!

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

## Lake Ontario Ecosystem Workshop November 8 – Register by 11/03

New York Sea Grant, the Cornell Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point and the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will hold a 9:30am–3pm workshop on “*The Future of the Lake Ontario Ecosystem: Is there a crystal ball?*” on Saturday, November 8 at SUNY Oswego. The lake system has undergone rapid and considerable changes over the last several decades. This workshop focuses on food web indicators that best describe the current health and status the lake and its fishery.

Speakers include Dr. Ed Mills and Kristen Holeck, Cornell University; Dr. Kim Shultz, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry; Bob O’Gorman, USGS retired; Steven LaPan, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Gavin Christie and Dr. Tim Johnson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Topics include balancing nutrition and ecosystem health in the food web, alewife and the lower food web, zooplankton as indicators of change, decision-making tools for lake management, and a look into the lake’s future. This workshop and a project titled “Ecological Indicators and Sustainability of the Lake Ontario Ecosystem” is funded by Cornell Cooperative Extension Smith Lever Federal Formula Funds. Register by November 3.

More info/registration: 315–312–3042, <mailto:slm22@cornell.edu>

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## NYSG Partners to Develop Oneida Lake Education Initiative

A partnership between New York Sea Grant and the Cornell University Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point on Oneida Lake is delivering information to the public via a new website, webcam, blog and classroom teacher training programs. The interactive tools are designed to provide educators and others with scientifically-based information on Oneida Lake and its watershed. October programs educated more than 300 North Syracuse Central School District students and provided teachers, municipal leaders, and watershed citizenry with tools and information for protecting the lake and its 800,000-acre watershed.

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

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## Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands DVD Now Available

The new Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands DVD is now available. The 18-minute program produced and narrated by Michael Ameigh 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. The program takes a look at invasive species, rare and endangered plants, shorebirds, and the delicate man-nature balance. The DVD was produced in cooperation with the

Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Steward Program and New York Sea Grant at SUNY-Oswego where Mr. Ameigh is assistant provost and an associate professor of communications studies. Copies are available for \$10 each.

More info: 315-312-3042, <mailto:SGOswego@cornell.edu>

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### **International Fisheries Representative Visits GL to Study Trawling**

As part of an October educational visit to the U.S., Tomas Juza, a Ph.D. student with the Institute of Hydrobiology at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, visited the Great Lakes shoreline of New York to study open water trawling techniques. He represented a group of 14 European nations. He said the Czech academy will use what he has learned to help design and build a trawling vessel for use in assessing adult fish populations in Czech reservoirs that are stocked for recreational fishing. To date, the Czechs have only evaluated fry populations nearshore.

More info: 315-312-3042, <mailto:dbm4@cornell.edu>

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### **Teachers Using Experiences from COSEE GL Tour**

The teachers participating in the shipboard learning opportunity on Lake Ontario this summer are now back in their classrooms and sharing what they learned about New York's Great Lake freshwater resource. Each teacher developed a classroom activity that they presented to the group traveling on the EPA R/V Lake Guardian. Each presentation was based on a selection from "*Greatest of the Great Lakes - A Medley of Model Lessons*," a collection of 41 innovative classroom activities, assembled by COSEE Great Lakes, that provide teachers and students (grades 4-10) with insights into the uniqueness of the Great Lakes and their influence on aquatic life and human populations.

More info: <http://coseegreatlakes.net/weblog/category/lake-ontario-exploration-workshop/>

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### **Interpretive Signage Program Planned**

New York Sea Grant will be partnering with the Tug Hill Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to enhance educational efforts through a comprehensive interpretive signage program along the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes & Wetlands Area and riparian restoration sites in the upper portion of the Sandy Creeks watershed. Two gateway kiosks and eight stand-alone interpretive panels are planned. This effort is one of the demonstration projects of the Sandy Creeks' Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative.

More info: 315-312-3042, <mailto:mp357@cornell.edu>, <http://www.tughill.org>

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### **Great Lakes Web Resources at Your Fingertips Spring '09 Workshop**

What would it be like to have all the great mapping tools, data sources, and resource information you need just a few mouse clicks away? A pilot program brought to you by the Great Lakes Observing System and Sea Grant will seek to do just that. Even if we knew of all the great decision-making tools that are available online, it would still be difficult to click our way through layers of Web sites, integrate information from multiple sources, and interpret it quickly enough to meet our rapidly-changing needs. NY Sea Grant is planning a workshop in the spring of 2009, in Western New York, to demonstrate integrated Web resources to meet your individual management, business, recreation, or education needs. Due to the hands-on nature of these workshops, attendance will be limited to 25 participants.

More info: <mailto:hmd4@cornell.edu>

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## NY Sea Grant on YouTube

In March of 2006 NY Sea Grant partnered with WWNY TV 7 in Watertown, New York, to begin a series of live Morning Show interviews with Jeff Cole and Beth Hall. Great Lakes Recreation and Tourism Specialist Dave White has spoken on a diverse range of topics related to New York's freshwater shoreline. He has appeared in flippers and dive mask, fishing gear and floatation safety equipment. Hot topics have sparked calls to Morning Show Producer Jack Miller for more information before Dave leaves the studio. In 2007, Dave began appearing with News 10 Now reporter Brian Dwyer talking about the Great Lakes Compact, clean boating, the annual Great Lakes Underwater conference, shoreline erosion, and cross-border travel by land and water. Dave also regularly visits on-air with WTNY Radio's Watertown Morning News with host George Neher and News Director Nathan Lehman. Video clips of Dave's interviews courtesy of TV 7 are now online.

More info: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NYSeaGrant>

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## Sea Grant Specialist Testifies Before Congress

New York Sea Grant and Cornell Cooperative Extension Senior Extension Associate Chuck O'Neill testified to the economic and infrastructure impacts of zebra (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and quagga (*Dreissena bugensis*) mussels before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power this past June. These mussels species caused \$1.5 billion in damage between 1989 and 2007 and now threaten waters in the western US.

More info: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July08/Quagga.kr.html>

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## Aquatic Invasive 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 Species website to find information on Great Lakes invasive plants and animals, including:

**Bloody Red Mysid Shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*):** A Bibliography, D. Oleson. 2007. The non-native vertebrate Bloody Red Mysid shrimp is found in the Great Lakes. This resource prepared by the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse offers a bibliography of scientific papers on this aquatic invasive species.

**Biological Pollution of the Great Lakes: The Nonindigenous Species Invasion of North America's Freshwater Seas.** CR O'Neill. 2005. This detailed 66-page NY Sea Grant Information Bulletin contains background information on what makes some non-native organisms invasive and others not; the history of Great Lakes AIS (aquatic invasive species) introductions; vectors of AIS introduction; geographic source regions for Great Lakes AIS; profiles of 165-plus Great Lakes introduced species; and all species broken down by species type, scientific name and common name. Contains photos and distribution maps.

More info: <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/ais/>

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## NY Sea Grant Coordinates Survey Journey on Seaway Trail

NY Sea Grant is providing project management for the Seaway Trail Revitalizing the Brand project. Over the summer of 2008 NY Sea Grant coordinated a Seaway Trail... Experience the Journey survey to all 11 counties of the byway that is one of America's Byways, a National Recreation Trail, a New York State Scenic Byway and a New York State Bicycle Route. College student Shawna White collected more than 1,000 consumer surveys and kept a blog of the experience. Seaway Trail, Inc. President and CEO Teresa Mitchell says, "We are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a byway and an economic development engine by talking with consumers, travelers, and business owners as part of our mission to enhance the economic impact of the Seaway Trail region through tourism."

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

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## **NY Sea Grant Welcomes New Director**

Dr. James W. Ammerman is now onboard as New York Sea Grant Director, succeeding the retired Jack Mattice. Dr. Ammerman is a graduate of Grinnell College (B.A., Biology) and Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Ph.D., Marine Biology). He is an aquatic microbial ecologist and biogeochemist, with particular interests in microbial cell-surface enzymes, phosphorus cycling, and automated instrumentation for aquatic microbiology. Having previously served as an Associate Program Manager in the Biological Oceanography Program at the National Science Foundation, Dr. Ammerman also has been the Science Director of NOAA's Undersea Research Center at Rutgers University.

He joins NYSG from the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, and was previously a member of the faculty at Texas A&M University and the research staff at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Dr. Ammerman is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a recipient of the Lindeman Award from the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.

David O. Conover, Chair of the New York Sea Grant Board of Governors says, "We are excited about Dr. Ammerman's arrival and look forward to the further evolution and growth of the unique and significant science-based research, extension, and education program that is New York Sea Grant. As a partnership between NOAA, the State University of New York, Cornell University, and the people involved with New York's marine, Great Lakes, and Hudson River coastlines and resources, we look forward to New York Sea Grant thriving under Dr. Ammerman's leadership and diverse background."

More info: [www.nyseagrant.org](http://www.nyseagrant.org)

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## **Mark Your Calendar with These Important Dates**

**November 8, 2008 – The Future of the Lake Ontario Ecosystem: Is there a crystal ball?** 9:30am–3pm, SUNY Oswego – Learn about the food web indicators for Lake Ontario's health and fisheries. Sponsored by New York Sea Grant, the Cornell Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point and the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. See details in news item above.

More info/registration: <mailto:slm22@cornell.edu>, 315-312-3042

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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!*