

Discover Clean & Safe Boating Campaign a Hit with Industry



Slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species is an added focus of the 2011 *Discover Clean & Safe Boating* campaign developed by New York Sea Grant in partnership with the Boating Industries Association of Upstate NY and Marathon Boat Group. For more, click on "Topics" at www.nyseagrant.org/marina

Photo by Dave White

Helping boaters and watercraft users learn what they need to legally, safely and cleanly boat on New York waters is the mission of the *Discover Clean & Safe Boating* campaign. Providing information on how they can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species is an added focus for 2011.

The campaign, created in 2008 by New York Sea Grant Coastal Recreation and Tourism Specialist **Dave White**, is a collaboration of New York Sea Grant, the Boating Industry Association of Upstate New York, Yamaha/Clayton Marina, and Marathon Boat Group.

Marathon Boat Group has donated the use of a 16-foot "made in New York" Grumman Oneida fishing boat and a 12'9" canoe for the 2011 campaign; it provided a pontoon boat for the 2010 tour.

Morgan Recreational Supply and Taylor Made Products, both headquartered in New York State, have equipped the boat with the gear required and recommended for clean and safe boating on NY waters.

Event organizers are specially requesting the exhibit. By September 2011 the *Discover Clean & Safe Boating* exhibit will have engaged New Yorkers at all but one



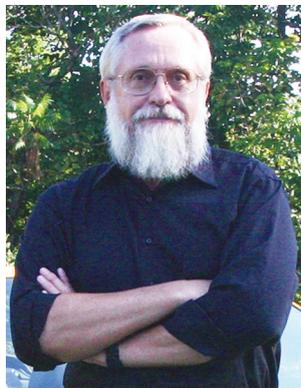
of the major marine trade association boat shows in upstate and at a variety of waterfront events along New York's freshwater shoreline.

Information from the national Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers project will be available at the exhibit, which encourages diverse types of groups and individuals to use easy-to-implement practices to make a positive impact on slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species can damage boat engines and steering equipment, reduce native game fish populations, degrade ecosystems, make lakes and rivers unusable by boaters and swimmers, and impact the economies of waterfront communities. White recently received a BoatUS Foundation commendation recognizing the creation of this consumer education campaign.

—Kara Lynn Dunn

A New Role for 30-Year Veteran O'Neill



As New York Sea Grant celebrates its 40 years, we say good luck to NYSG's longtime invasive species "guru" **Chuck O'Neill** as he transitions from New York Sea Grant to Cornell Cooperative

Extension. Says O'Neill, "It's been an interesting 30 years with NYSG. Although, I've seen a lot of changes, we've not changed our extension philosophy, only the way we deliver information. We still go to our audiences with solid, science-based information to help them make their own informed decisions, not make decisions for them."

In his new role as Coordinator of Extension Invasive Species Programs, O'Neill directs the New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse (NYIS.INFO) and coordinates the Cornell Cooperative Extension Statewide Invasive Species Extension Program, which includes supervising county-based regional invasive species educators as well ensuring that aquatic invasive species outreach remains an integral part of New York Sea Grant Extension's overall programming.

O'Neill, a geologist by training, started with New York Sea Grant working on shoreline erosion and lake level

education programs in the western counties bordering Lake Ontario. "But then in the 1980s came a paradigm shift in our extension program. We began to see thematic specialists in the Great Lakes—extension educators working specifically with researchers in their areas of study. This focus helped our extension program to shine with expertise."

The rapid succession of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes provided O'Neill with the opportunity to refocus and evolve into an internationally known invasive species "expert." As a coastal geologist, O'Neill had worked closely with coastal engineers on the siting of bridges and dwellings as well as with the operators of drinking water and power plants on water intake issues. Then in 1989 along came a new invasive—zebra mussels—which foul intake pipes and cause millions in damage. O'Neill had the background and could talk the "lingo" of plant managers about the mitigation of problems caused by what the *New York Times* called "those pesky mussels."

He and NYSG's fisheries specialist **Dave MacNeill** knew that the zebra mussel invasion was going to be the next big issue in the Great Lakes. They got squarely in front of it, brought in researchers and traveled throughout New York making facility operators aware of the impending problem; they soon carried that message nationally. O'Neill became the director of The Zebra Mussel Clearinghouse, a repository for research on this issue originally funded by utilities, then expanded it to all aquatic invasive species when it became Sea Grant's National Aquatic Invasive Species Clearinghouse. When O'Neill received queries about plants growing along streams, too, he expanded

the site to terrestrial as well as aquatic invasives. Thus began the NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse and its Web site NYIS.INFO.

"These invasive species outreach projects have been a long time in the making," says O'Neill. "You can count on NYSG Extension and Cornell Cooperative Extension becoming the portals through which the public can find what they need to know about invasive species."

—Barbara A. Branca

Invasives to Watch

Back in 2001 for New York Sea Grant's 30th anniversary, we asked **Chuck O'Neill** to compile a list of "30 Invasive Species to Watch." Now, ten years later, we asked him what new invasive species are the ones to watch now? O'Neill put three at the top of his list: a big fish, a shrimp and a single-celled algae. The Asian carp, long a food staple in China, with its great size and jumping ability is a threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem. The diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* creates dense mats that cover the bottoms of streams and rivers and is nicknamed "rock snot" for its gooey appearance. Then there is the bloody red shrimp, *Hemimysis anomala*. With NYSG funding, **Drs. Lars Rudstam and Brent Boscarino** (see photo right) of Cornell University have investigated the behavior, physiology, and population dynamics of *Hemimysis*, to see if this invasive is disrupting the Lake Ontario food web by competing with native invertebrates known as mysids. Their research findings are helping to inform management decisions in the Great Lakes.

Last Wave

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Journal Reprints

Goto, D., and W.G. Wallace. 2010. Bioenergetic responses of a benthic forage fish (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) to habitat degradation and altered prey community in polluted salt marshes. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 67: 1566-1584.

Goto, D., and W.G. Wallace. 2010. Metal intracellular partitioning as a detoxification mechanism for mummichogs living in metal-polluted salt marshes. *Marine Environmental Research* 69(3): 163-171.

Goto, D., and W.G. Wallace. 2009. Influences of prey- and predator-dependent processes on cadmium and methylmercury trophic transfer to mummichogs (*Fundulus heteroclitus*). *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 66(5): 836-846.

Stasiewicz, M.J., M. Weidmann, and T.M. Bergholz. 2010. The combination of lactate and diacetate synergistically reduces cold growth in brain heart infusion broth across *Listeria monocytogenes* lineages. *Journal of Food Protection* 73(4): 631-640.

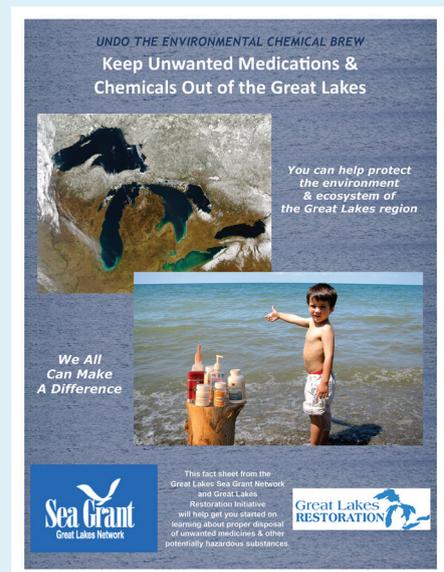
Collaborative Publications

Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands Fact Sheet Series. M. Penney. 2010. This series of eight fact sheets produced by New York Sea Grant focuses on the various components of the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes and Wetlands Area. Titles include: *Arrangement and Development of Eastern Lake Ontario Wetlands* (co-authored by M. Distler); *Bog Buckmoth* (co-authored by S. Bonanno); *Common Beach Litter; Dune Building Plants; Hybrid Cattails* (co-authored by M. Distler); *Muskrat; Sediment Along the Beaches and Dunes of Eastern Lake Ontario* (co-authored by S. Bonanno and C. Lajewski); and *Yellow Perch*. The New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources provided project funding. Other project partners include the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Oswego County BOCES, Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, and Town of Sandy Creek. Available online at www.nyseagrant.org/lodune - click on "Publications"



Postdoctoral fellow Brent Boscarino (r.), former Sea Grant Scholar under Dr. Lars Rudstam of Cornell University, collects a water sample assisted by USGS student contractor, Catherine Guntow. Boscarino will compare its phytoplankton contents with samples taken during daylight hours to learn more about the feeding preferences of the invasive mysid *Hemimysis anomala*.

Dose of Reality: Sea Grant Educates on Unwanted Meds



New York Sea Grant has partnered with the Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant programs to help consumers act to keep unwanted medications and chemicals out of the Great Lakes. In Fall 2010, the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network members began a "Dose of Reality" education campaign and, earlier this spring, NYSG's Coastal Education Specialist Helen Domske authored a four-page companion brochure, "Undo the Environmental Chemical Brew: Keep Unwanted Medications & Chemicals Out of the Great Lakes."

— Paul C. Focazio

Penney Named Coastal Community Development Specialist

As NYSG's new Great Lakes Coastal Community Development Specialist, **Mary Penney** is currently undertaking a community-driven needs assessment survey that will help local decision makers identify priority issues and will work with community leaders to respond to the issues of the Eastern Lake Ontario region and its tributaries, including the Salmon River. Her services are especially needed by the more rural towns and villages that do not already have the type of resources that Sea Grant can provide to facilitate planning and decision making.

Penney will assist local leaders interested in land use planning, watershed protection, science-based sustainable renewable energy discussions, and managing climate change impacts. Penney will also be developing local volunteerism opportunities and will supervise a team of coastal natural resource educators.

Penney has been an educator with New York Sea Grant since 2006. She can be reached at New York Sea Grant, SUNY Oswego, 315-312-3042.

— Kara Lynn Dunn