

WATERWORKS

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

September 2004
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Status of NYS Aquatic Pesticide Permits Uncertain

As this newsletter goes to press, the NYSFOLA office is receiving a lot of conflicting opinion as to the status of aquatic pesticide permitting in the State of New York.

A June 24th article in the *The Lake George Mirror* quotes New York State Senator Betty Little as noting that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is re-evaluating the procedures whereby permits are issued for SONAR® and other aquatic pesticides. The article also states that sources contacted by the newspaper concur that DEC is withholding permits for SONAR® pending an analysis of the results of an application in western New York. It appears quite clear that Lake George will not get a permit for application of SONAR® any time in the near future, but this news account doesn't quite agree with NYSFOLA's information regarding the "big picture" across the state.

Aquatic herbicides continue to be used in New York State, and permits have been issued in 2004 for several registered products. Lake Moraine in Madison County, for example, completed a repeat herbicide application this spring. However, permit applications do seem to be under more scrutiny, and not all applications are approved. There has not been an *official* moratorium on permits, but it does seem certain that there are changes in the works.

One thing that does seem to be happening more often, is the requirement for the preparation of a lake management plan as part of the permit process. Lake associations that need assistance with the preparation of a lake management plan should check out the NYSFOLA web site www.nysfola.org. Click on the "Watershed Planning Project" and "PDF Documents (NEW!)" buttons for information related to lake management planning. There are even model plans from several lakes. You can also call the NYSFOLA office at (800)769-3652. We will also continue to monitor the situation in Albany as it continues to unfold.

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NYSFOLA's mission. is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue. education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.

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WATERWORKS

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All letters to the editor represent the viewpoints of the author and may or may not reflect the opinion of the NYSFOLA membership or Board of Directors.



From the President...by Bob Rosati

Well, summer is almost two-thirds over, and here in the Southern Tier of NY, it hasn't been a very good one. In July alone, we had 20 days of rain with a total of almost 9.8 inches. This is more than double the average for July. It will be interesting to see how all of this rain influences the CSLAP data.

Depending on the conditions within your watershed, this much rainfall could make a difference in the input to the lake, influencing the sediment, nutrients, or water clarity. Dr. Lake will tell us all about that in this issue of "Waterworks." Also, as the land around the lake becomes more saturated, the amount and speed of the runoff accelerates, carrying solids into the lake rather than soaking into the ground. This makes a "buffer zone" along the lakeshore becomes more important than ever. Take a look at the landscaping tips on page _____. See what you can do to improve the water quality of your lake.

While we still have some summer left, and all New York lakes are beautiful in the fall, we have plenty of time to get out and enjoy our place on the lake. Perhaps, there's even time for a bit of seasonal landscaping to prevent erosion. That is...if it's not raining!

*Sincerely,
Bob Rosati, President*



Forest Tent Caterpillar Plagues Lake Bonaparte Area

With special thanks to Dr. Rainer Brocke and Dr. Douglas Allen, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Mr. Mark Zubal, NYSDEC, John Mueller, Certified Forester, Society of American Foresters, and Mr. Jeffrey Duflo, Duflo Spray Chemical Inc.

In May, 2004, people in the Lake Bonaparte area had a nasty surprise. The upper leaf canopy of the area's forest was being eaten on a large scale by caterpillars - the Forest Tent Caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, a look-alike and close relative of the common Eastern Tent Caterpillar. However, despite its name, the forest tent caterpillar does not build tents but spins silken mats on tree trunks and large branches.

This insect pest, a small moth in its adult form, lays its eggs on bark, especially on its principal host, the sugar maple but also on other species. The eggs hatch during the spring, and the emerging gray caterpillars feeding voraciously until they pupate in late spring (small white pupa in bark crevices). The moths emerge from pupae in summer, laying their eggs on branches and bark. The eggs over-winter until they hatch the following spring, producing a new crop of caterpillars, completing the cycle.

There was a heavy, statewide defoliation by the forest tent caterpillar in the early 1950s, and another outbreak in the early 1980s in the Delaware River basin and along the Pennsylvania border. A smaller outbreak defoliated the Tug Hill Plateau forests in the mid-1990s. The current outbreak is spreading in central New York and in the western Adirondacks, especially in the Lake Bonaparte area where the outbreak of the forest tent caterpillar has been so intense that the forest



Forest Tent Caterpillars cover a cottage at Lake Bonaparte
Photo courtesy of the Lake Bonaparte Conservation Club

floor and roads were slick with caterpillars. A rain of caterpillars descended on area cottages.

This forest pest is a native species, having evolved with our forests for a long time. Outbreaks occur regularly sometimes decades apart. Apparently trees have developed resistance to this pest and can survive 75% defoliation. Sometimes, the caterpillar population is so high that they may starve in the second year of infestation, to the benefit of the trees. Usually, during the second year of defoliation, a flesh fly (looks like a deer fly but does not bite humans) attacks the caterpillar in great numbers, helping to end the infestation. Additionally, viral and fungal

diseases build up and attack the caterpillars. These predators, combined with weather factors, check the infestation, usually at the end of the second year of damage.

A forest tent caterpillar infestation does not usually kill trees or last beyond two years. However, it does affect tree growth negatively and does impact maple syrup production. Hence, sometimes treatment is recommended.



Forest Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*)

The most commonly used and effective treatment against the forest tent caterpillar involves an aerial spraying of a microbial agent Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). The spores of this species,



sprayed on the affected forest in early May, sticks on the tree leaves which are eaten by the caterpillars. Caterpillars will stop eating about 24 hours after they have eaten Bt and are subsequently killed by invading bacteria. The treatment is *not* a chemical pesticide and is perfectly harmless to wildlife, pets, and people. Even large caterpillars are killed by Bt, which lasts for about two weeks on the forest leaves.

The members of the Lake Bonaparte Conservation Club opted for Bt spraying and have been very pleased with the results.

Peck Lake Organizing For Action on Property Tax Assessments

Most NYSFOLA members know that lakefront property appears to be “golden” in the eyes of any local assessor’s office. As local government funds become as scarce as waterfront acreage, the problem is only getting worse.

The Peck Lake Protective Association has volunteered to organize a statewide appeal of sorts which may (or may not) include a trip to Albany. If your lake association would like to participate, please contact:

Colleen Geraghty	cgeragh@msn.com
(617)323-2087	HOME
(518)773-0604	LAKE

Please do not contact the NYSFOLA office.

Lake George Association Reports Zebra Mussels in Harris Bay

GA Press Release, James Hood, Communications Coordinator

The Lake George Association (LGA), the nation's first lake association, is reporting that a colony of zebra mussels has been discovered in Harris Bay, near the western tip of Cleverdale. For the most part, Lake George has been spared the damaging effects of this aggressive, invasive species.

A resident of Cleverdale notified the LGA office on the evening of Monday, July 19th, concerned that there were zebra mussels just off of their dock. A piece of concrete was transported to the LGA for further inspection, which confirmed that the large clusters of mussels attached were indeed zebra mussels. Immediately, Karin Badey, the LGA's Educator, went to the area in Harris Bay and used an underwater viewscope to scan the area. Badey reported that there were several clusters of zebra mussels attached to rocks and a bottle, as well as other debris. She estimated the number of mussels to be over 300.

The LGA initiated an action plan that included other lake groups, such as Darrin Fresh Water Institute and the Lake George Park Commission. Working together, representatives from those groups swam the area to determine the extent of the colony. Results from the site inspection indicated that over 900 zebra mussels had actually made their home in the area.

An expedited process for disseminating information, as well as reports and results, is critical to successfully dealing with invasive species, which represent a serious threat to any ecosystem. With no predators or other controls, invasives out-compete native species for food, dis-

rupting the entire food chain.

The LGA staff notified the marinas in the Cleverdale area, and asked them to be looking for evidence of more colonies, as well as possible sources for introduction of the zebra mussels. The primary way that zebra mussels are introduced to a body of water is to attach themselves to a boat, which is then moved from an infested water body to a non-infested water body. "All of the marinas around Lake George, as well as the motels that have launches, should be vigilant in their inspection of boats that are launched," stated Mary-Arthur Beebe, executive director for the LGA.

Packets of information about zebra mussels will be promptly distributed by the LGA to residents of Cleverdale, Assembly Point and Rockhurst. Beebe added, "Between the LGA and the Park Commission, we have quite a bit of infor-



Zebra mussels found in Lake George

mation about how to identify zebra mussels, how to prevent introduction to the lake and how to protect your water intake system." Evidence from other lakes has shown that zebra mussels can attach themselves to water intake pipes, clogging them and creating a foul odor and taste. Residents who draw water from the lake would be well-advised to install a 5-micron filter (available through local hardware stores) onto their water pump. The mussels can also damage marine engines, causing them to overheat.

“The buzzwords for invasives are ‘early detection and rapid response,’” quipped Beebe. “By combining the resources of the LGA, the Fresh Water Institute and the Park Commission, we are acting quickly and decisively to address this threat. We are also calling on the shoreline residents to swim their areas and report back to the LGA, if they suspect that they might have zebra mussels.”

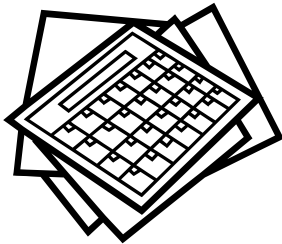
Zebra mussels, an aggressive, invasive species, were first discovered in Lake George in 1999 in the area of Lake George Village. Lake groups acted quickly, by removing almost 20,000 of the thumbnail-sized mollusks. Follow-up dives in subsequent years, showed a rapid decline in the number of adult zebra mussels to only a few hundred or less. The Lake George Association manages the “Drop a Brick on Zebra Mussels” program, a volunteer effort to monitor for zebra mussels, which includes lowering a brick into the water and suspending it a foot from the lake bottom. The brick provides the

hard surface on which the zebra mussels would attach themselves. The first season of the LGA’s program reported no evidence of zebra mussels.

The Lake George Association is a non-profit organization made up of over 5,000 members who are working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.

For more information, please contact LGA Communication Coordinator, James Hood, at 668-3558.

The LGA is a not-for-profit membership organization of people interested in working together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin. Interested in becoming an LGA member? Contact the LGA at (518) 668-3558 or check out LGA on the web at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org.



Mark Your Calendars NOW!

NYSFOLA 22nd Annual
Meeting and Conference

April 30 - May 2, 2004
White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, NY



10th Annual Region 1 Meeting
NYS Federation of Lake Associations

October 23, 2004

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Moonwinks, Cuba Lake, NY



Directions to the Regional Conference:

Moonwinks is located on Route 305 one mile north of the Cuba, NY exit of I-86.

There will be lunch available for \$10.00 per person (tax and gratuity included).
Please select a lunch choice for each registrant:

_____ Julienne Salad

_____ Chicken Salad with Croissant

_____ Sliced Roast Beef on a Roll w/Au Jus _____ Vegetarian Salad

Each choice includes soup, side dish, dessert and beverage.



Topics:

**What is happening with SONAR® Applications at Waneta-Lamoka Lakes?
How can a Law Firm Help Your Lake Association?
Geese Population Control**

Registration Form (Deadline October 16, 2004)

Name of Organization _____

Name(s) of Participants _____

Total Number of Participants _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Contact Information: Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

e-mail _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CLCOA-CUBA LAKE

Mail Check and registration form to: Barbara Utter, 5086 Willowbrook Drive, Clarence, NY 14031

For more information, contact Donald Cook dcook@usadatanet.net or (585)367-9293.

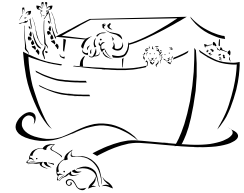


Ask Dr. Lake

Dear Dr. Lake:

Is there any connection between water quality and weather in New York State lakes? What could we expect if it rained continuously for, say, six weeks straight, or if it were as hot as an inferno?

*Noah Way,
Lake Ararat, NY*



Dear Noah,

It is very clear that weather strongly influences water quality. Anyone who watches a storm-swollen chocolate colored tributary or walks across a drought-cracked lake bed (as occurred in Hempstead Lake in Long Island a few years ago) can attest to that. But those are weather extremes.

For major events, the relationships can be a bit easier to understand. After Hurricane Floyd, for example (September 1999), water clarity and conductivity dropped dramatically, and nutrient levels increased substantially over such a short period of time, that these changes could only be attributable to either torrential rains or an invasion of phosphorous aliens.

It is more difficult to say whether more rain, or more drought, or hotter or colder weather creates changes in water quality, or if these changes are both measurable and distinct. If hot weather brings more rain and more lake use by sweating swimmers, lapping dogs, and thirsty plants, then determining which of these factors caused the water to turn green or the weeds to carpet the lake surface is not always as simple as blaming it on the weather.

We can look at broad weather patterns in New York State over the last twenty years or so and offer some educated (more or less) guesses as to whether wet weather likes

lakes. In general, the wettest years since 1985 have been 1986 and 2000, and the driest year has been 1995. (Note these are statewide averages, your region may vary a bit.) So, what happened in those years?

In 1986 and 2000, about 30% of lakes sampled in NYS appeared to be less clear than usual (defined as a statistically significant difference from “normal”), while only about 10% of these lakes appeared to be clearer. This was the widest discrepancy of any two years over this period. Meanwhile, in 1995, nearly 40% of the lakes were much clearer than normal, while less than 25% were less clear than expected, also the widest discrepancy in that direction. This suggests that more rain equals less transparency.

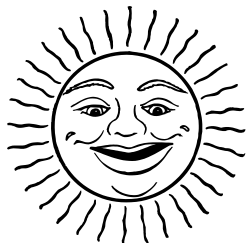
And why is this? Well, in 1986 and 2000, about 40% of the lakes had higher phosphorous concentrations, while only about 10% of the lakes saw a reduction in phosphorous levels. Sounds like a crystal clear explanation, right? Unfortunately, although 1995 was a dry year, and although the number of lakes having lower phosphorous levels exceeded the number having higher phosphorous levels, the same pattern occurred in other years that were not quite so arid. This suggests that other factors must also have been in play. Our friends at Black Lake are reporting some of the best secchi disk readings ever in this very rainy 2004. So things are certainly more complex than we would assume.

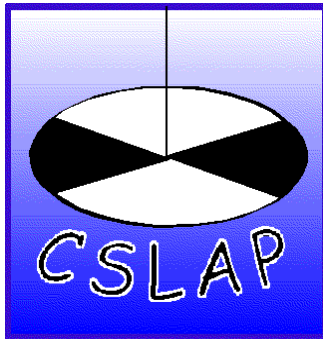
It also appears that the most pernicious years for weed growth were during the weather extremes (very wet in 2000 and very dry in 1995). This is probably consistent with the increasing dominance of invasive exotic (submergent) plants in NYS lakes. Plants like Eurasian watermilfoil tend to thrive in “disturbed” environments and do well in both very clear and very turbid lakes. It can probably be stated with some certainty that when the going gets tough, the milfoil gets going.

Alas, my answer to your question may be as clear as, well, one of the 20 days it rained on Melody Lake in July 2004. However, the true answer to this question is probably something like, “That all depends on a multitude of factors present in any particular lake and its watershed.”

Yours truly,

Dr. Lake





CSLAPpenings

Dear CSLAP Volunteers,

This summer has certainly not been ideal for sunny sampling weather, but we admire your perseverance. For the most part, things have moved along smoothly with only minor glitches related to shipping. As the season winds down, there are a few reminders that can help us keep things flowing smoothly to and from Upstate Freshwater Institute (aka “the lab”).

- Please make sure that your box (inside the top flaps) AND cooler lid have the lake name printed on them. Put the name, non-P.O. box address, and phone number of the person to whom the cooler should be returned on top of the cooler. If it's the same person each sampling session, you can print it right on the cooler.
- If you need more MgCO₃ solution or filters, **PLEASE** return the empty container(s) for a refill. It helps us save money, and prevents us from running out of little squirt bottles for the MgCO₃ and cups for the filters mid-season.
- **We are NOT renewing the USPS Business Reply Permit in 2005** because it has caused too many problems. Lakes using the United States Postal Service (USPS) for shipping, will be charged a lower CSLAP fee so that the extra funds can go to the volunteers to pay the shipping expenses. Shipping Priority Mail from your home Post Office should help us get samples in a more timely fashion (we hope). It will certainly eliminate a difficult and costly permit renewal procedure in the years to come. There are very few lakes using the USPS, so this will not have a major impact on the program.
- There will be a change in the 2005 CSLAP Participation fee for lakes with multiple sites only. Details will follow in the months to come, but this will not impact lakes with a single sampling site.

CSLAP FACTS TO PONDER!

- **Over 200 lakes have been sampled in CSLAP since 1986.**
- **Over 1200 volunteers have participated in the CSLAP.**
- **Over 65,000 hours of volunteer time have been “donated” with an estimated value of approximately \$1 million.**
- **Over 11,000 samples have been collected.**
- **NYS has contributed roughly \$2 million to CSLAP including equipment, staff time, and analytical services.**



Fundraising Tips for Lake Associations

(adapted from NYS DEC Water Week Flyer)

Don't rely entirely on grants — doing your own fundraising gives your organization pride and ownership. It also promotes your organization and goals.

Before You Apply For a Grant -

- *Research the funding source. Is your project a "good fit" for the grant program?*
- *Show real need with measurable results and benefits.*
- *Follow the grantors guidelines. Each grant program has its own selection criteria.*
- *Write a draft proposal, and give it to others to critique before the final submission.*

Foundations Providing Funds for Environmental Projects:

(For more sources check out www.greatlakesdirectory.org)

American Express Company - Funding that protects important natural and man-made cultural or historic sites around the world, by supporting effective, non-profit advocacy organizations.



Captain Planet Foundation - The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to fund and support hands-on environmental projects for children and youth. The objective is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities.

Frey Foundation - Funds protection of the environment and encouragement of better land use planning. Regional land protection efforts include projects that enhance water quality, protect ecological corridors and valuable environmental features, and protects or improves the ecological health of natural areas.

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund - Developed in 1996 to provide information and financial support to grassroots citizen initiatives working to protect and restore Great Lakes shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, wetlands, and other aquatic habitats *in the Great Lakes Basin*.

Walmart Foundation - Funding for environmental programs to 501C3 nonprofit organizations in communities that hold a Walmart store. Typical award is around \$2,500.00.



NALMS 2004

Lakes: Habitat for Fish, Habitat for People

November 3-5, 2004

Victoria, British Columbia

Hosted by the British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society

Home

Symposium Theme

Lakes are special to people for many reasons– they represent places of enjoyment, relaxation and peace. But lakes are also special and important places for a variety of other species, and often human use of lakes can effect these non-human residents of a lake.

NALMS returns to Canada for the fourth time in the 24-year history of the organization. The theme the 2004 conference in Victoria, BC is “Lakes - Habitat for Fish, Habitat for People” and will consider some of the challenges associated with the co-existence of people with one of the other groups that live in lakes - the fish.

Join us at NALMS 2004 in the beautiful city of Victoria the first week of November to hear a program that will address a wide range of topics including: introduced aquatic plants and animals, lake assessment and restoration techniques, government polices, and new scientific methods.

The venue for the symposium is the Victoria Conference Centre, and the host hotel is The Fairmont Empress. For general conference information, contact NALMS at (608)233-2836 or log on to www.nalms.org.

Important Deadlines:

September 17, 2004 - Early bird registration ends.

October 9, 2004 - Last day conference hotel rate is available.

October 15, 2004 - Regular registration ends. All registrations received after this date will be charged the on-site rate!

Now Available from NYSFOLA “Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality”

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality is a new book by Carrol Henderson, Carolyn Dindorf and landscape ecologist Fred Rozumaiski, that explains how to proceed with the simple idea of “lakescaping” your lakeshore property. The book includes chapters about lake ecosystems, designing your lakeshore landscape and selecting plants, site preparation and general tips on stewardship of the land and water. The book has a midwestern slant including information on Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan plants, nurseries and shoreline regulations. However, the overall content applies to any lakeshore property. Just be sure to use plants native to New York State!

Did you know?

- Emergent vegetation reduces shoreline erosion caused by wind and boat traffic.
-
- Natural vegetation is a filter strip that helps prevent lawn fertilizer and pesticide runoff from reaching the lake.
-
- Buffer zones reduce the size of lawn and maintenance time.
-
- Unmowed areas will deter Canada Geese from loitering on the lawn.

~~The book is \$19.95.....~~

Order Form:

Yes, please send me “*Lakescaping for Wildlife and Wildlife and Water Quality*”

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# _____

No. Copies _____

Total Enclosed _____

Mail order to: NYSFOLA P.O. Box 84 LaFayette, NY 13084

**Now Accepting
2004 Membership Dues
Are Your Dues Current?**

Your mailing label is the key to your membership standing. The digit next to your name indicates the last year your dues were paid. Your membership fees are based on the calendar year, and we appreciate that some associations cannot submit fees until mid-summer. This is not a problem.

If the digit is a "3", please remit your dues to the NYSFOLA office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 1-800-796-FOLA. Thank you for your continued support of NYSFOLA.

**2004 Membership Form
NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**

Lake, Watershed and other Associations:

Small Association, 10-74 members _____	\$35.00
Medium Association, 75-149 members _____	\$75.00
Large Association, 150 or more members _____	\$150.00
Park Districts (Town, County, etc.) _____	\$200.00
Individual Membership (not a member of a lake association) _____	\$20.00
Individual member of a NYSFOLA Lake Association in good standing _____	\$10.00
<i>(get your own copy of WATERWORKS instead of reading it at your meeting!)</i>	
Corporate Membership _____	\$200.00
Student _____	\$10.00

Name of Lake Association or Individual _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Lake Location (county) _____

(especially important if your lake is one of many named Loon, Mud, Round, etc.)

Fee \$ _____ Any additional donation? \$ _____ (thank you)

**Send payment to: New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA)
P.O. Box 84
LaFayette, NY 13084**

*A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature;
It is the earth's eye.*

Looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.

Henry David Thoreau

Available at the NYSFOLA Office

Diet For a Small Lake, Joint publication of NYSFOLA and NYSDEC relative to watersheds and lakes. Detailed instructions for preparing a **lake management plan**; complete descriptions of lake **restoration** and **watershed management techniques**; comprehensive discussion of **lake ecology**.

Cost-\$20.00 includes shipping & handling ***SUPPLIES EXTREMELY LIMITED***



Managing Lakes Through Community Participation; 25 minute video. Why lake associations are formed, how they get started, tackling priority issues, case studies, ties with local government and lake community.

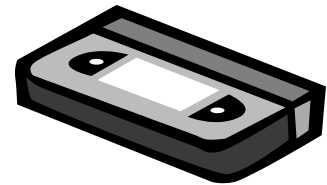
Cost-\$15.00 plus \$2.00 shipping & handling

Water Quality Monitoring in Lakes and Tributaries, video. Demonstrates the techniques used for water quality monitoring, based on procedures used in Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Useful for starting a monitoring program.

Cost-\$15.00, plus \$2.00 shipping & handling

Through the Looking Glass, A Wisconsin Lake Partnership publication containing information on nearly all aquatic plants.

Cost -\$24.95, plus \$2.00 shipping & handling



Exotics To Go!; This compact disk is “fast food” for people who need materials to give presentations about zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species. Contains 7 PowerPoint presentations including scripts, images, and talking points that focus on zebra mussel impacts and control. Twenty-two informational publications in PDF format and lists of people to contact are also included. Produced by the Illinois-Indiana and Minnesota Sea Grant programs on behalf of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. \$6.00 includes shipping & handling.

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality (see page 13) a new book that explains how to “lakescape” your lakeshore property. Although the book has an upper midwest slant, it offers great advice for any region of the country.

WATERWORKS

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LaFayette, NY 13084

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Calendar of Events

13th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species - September 19-23, 2004. Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. Contact: Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs (613)732-7068.

*NYSFOLA Regional Meeting - October 23, 2004 at Moonwinks, Cuba Lake, NY
For more information, contact Donald Cook (585)367-9293.*

NALMS 2004 "Lakes: Habitat for Fish, Habitat for People"; November 3-5, 2004, Victoria, British Columbia. For more information www.nalms.org.