

WATERWORKS

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

January 2007



Viral Hemorrhagic Septecemia Present in New York Lakes

Emergency Regulations Issued

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Website and Press Releases

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What is VHS?

Viral hemorrhagic septecemia (VHS) is a serious pathogen of fresh and saltwater fish that is causing an emerging disease in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. VHS virus is a rhabdovirus (rod shaped virus) that affects fish of all size and age ranges. It does not pose any threat to human health. VHS can cause hemorrhaging of fish tissue, including internal organs, and can cause the death of infected fish. Once a fish is infected with VHS, there is no known cure. Not all infected fish develop the disease, but they can carry and spread the disease to other fish. VHS has been blamed for fish kills in Lake St. Clair (MI), Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and Conesus Lake.

What is the history of VHS?

VHS was first discovered in the mid 20th Century in Europe where it was originally a significant disease of cultured rainbow trout. Since its initial discovery in Europe, four strains of the VHS virus have been identified, including both freshwater and marine strains. In 1988, VHS was reported in spawning salmon in the Pacific Northwest and was determined to be a new strain of the virus (Type IV) that appears to be a North American strain. It is widespread in the Pacific herring and Pacific cod populations and has also been found in Atlantic herring and Greenland halibut in the Atlantic Ocean.

In 2005, a very large die-off of freshwater drum in Lake Ontario and a muskellunge kill in Lake St. Clair were linked to VHS, representing the first documentation of the disease in freshwater in the western hemisphere. A subsequent test of an archived muskellunge collected from Lake St. Claire in 2003 tested positive for the virus, indicating that the virus was present, but undetected, in the Great Lakes system for at least two years. The drum and muskellunge virus isolates were determined to

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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 NYSFOFA membership or Board of Directors.

From the President...by Donald Cook

The calendars says that it is winter, but it sure does not look or feel like it at Honeoye Lake. Usually, by now, the ice fishermen are pulling in lots of fish, but anglers are in their boats this year casting for "the big one."

I had the pleasure of being the master of ceremonies at the 12th Annual Western New York Regional Conference at Cuba Lake. Forty people from 10 lakes participated in a most interesting meeting. Sean Hanna, Region 8 Director of NYSDEC and State Senator Catherine Young of Olean answered questions from participants who emphasized the need for better coordination between DEC Regional offices and Albany headquarters. It was also indicated that our efforts to modify the proposed dam safety regulations have been successful. Stay tuned!

Bob Johnson from Cornell University gave a comprehensive overview of the status of weevil programs in New York over the past few years. To date, Bob does not see any real positive evidence that stocking a lake with weevils results in long term milfoil control. Any stocking should involve adult weevils only. Sara Meyer of the Finger Lakes Institute in Geneva gave a presentation on ways that lake associations can encourage membership—especially from the younger generations.

Thank you to the Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Association, especially Barbara Utter, for hosting the conference one again. The 13th annual regional conference will be hosted by the Conesus Lake Association on October 20, 2007.

Conesus Lake made the news this summer because of an outbreak of VHS virus which produced a serious Walleye kill. Their website www.conesuslake.org has some great information. This is a major concern for NY fisheries, and we must all educate anglers and boaters on our lakes to stop the spread of the virus.

We will continue to keep you updated on VHS and the proposed dam safety regulations. We hope to see you at the 2007 NYSFOFA Conference and Membership Meeting at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton!

Donald Cook, President

(Continued from page 1)

be different than those from infected fish from other regions and were categorized as a unique strain of the virus (Type IVb).

In 2006, additional fish kills in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and Conesus Lake were linked to VHS. Species involved in fish kills linked to VHS included muskellunge, smallmouth bass, northern pike, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, rock bass, white bass, redhorse sucker, round goby, burbot and walleye. Other freshwater fish species that have tested positive for VHS are bluntnose minnows and emerald shiners.

What can be done to prevent the spread of VHS?

To reduce the likelihood of spreading VHS in New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages all anglers and boaters to abide by the following guidelines:

- Remove all mud, aquatic plants and animals from all gear, boats, motors and trailers before leaving a body of water;
- Drain your live well, bilge and bait tanks before leaving the water you are fishing or boating on. Anglers or boaters using any waterbody known to be infected with the VHS virus (the list is available from DEC) should disinfect their live wells and bait wells with a 10 percent chlorine/water solution. Rinse well to remove all residual chlorine.
- Do not transport fish from one body of water to another. Note that this practice is illegal without a DEC fish stocking permit;
- Only release bait fish into the waterbody it was taken from. Bait purchased commercially should not be released into any body of water; and
- Do not dispose of fish carcasses or by-products in any body of water.

Federal Order and New York State Emergency Regulations:

On October 24, 2006, a Federal Order was issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that prohibits the importation of certain species of live fish from Ontario and Quebec and interstate transport of the same species from eight states bordering the Great Lakes (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua).

On November 21, 2006, DEC filed emergency fish health regulations in response to VHS. The regulations became effective immediately and attempt to halt the spread of VHS and other fish diseases into uninfected waters in New York. The full text of the regulation is available at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfw/mr/propregs/. Hard copies of the rulemaking can also be requested from DEC by calling (518)402-8920.

The regulations:

- Prohibit the commercial collection of bait fish from waters of the State where VHS has been detected. The list is available on the DEC website.
- Limit the personal possession and use of bait fish. The rule limits the number of bait fish that may be possessed to a total of 100, as well as restricts the use of bait fish for personal use to the specific water from which it was collected.
- Require live fish destined for release into the waters of the State to be inspected by certified professionals and be certified to be free of VHS and other serious fish diseases. The rule prohibits the placement of live fish into the waters of the State (including possessing, importing and transporting live fish for the purposes of placing them into the waters of the State) unless accompanied by a fish health inspection report issued within the previous 12 months.



“ Water Over the Dam”

NYSFOLA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting
May 4 - 6, 2007
White Eagle Conference Center– Hamilton, NY

Note: The agenda is still a “work in progress.” Some sessions may be added or deleted as necessary. We will try to keep the website updated.

Friday May 4, 2007

8:00-9:30 AM	Breakfast - White Eagle Lodge
9:30-10:00AM	Registration at the Appley Center
10:00-10:15AM	Welcome
10:15-12:00	Sessions Begin at the Appley Center (We will probably add another session.)

RESEARCH AND PLANNING IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN / LAKE GEORGE BASIN

10:15-11:00AM	TITLE TBA Larry Eichler, Darrin Freshwater Institute
11:00-11:15AM	BREAK
11:15AM-12:00PM	TITLE TBA Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation
12:00-1:00PM	LUNCH
1:00-1:45PM	Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board
1:45-2:30PM	Recreational Boating Capacity on Lake George
2:30-2:45PM	BREAK
2:45-3:30PM	Discussion Session

3:00PM	NYSFOLA Board of Directors Meeting - Appley Center
5:00-6:00PM	Cocktails - White Eagle Lodge
6:00-7:00PM	Dinner - White Eagle Lodge
7:00-9:00PM	Welcome and Open Discussion: What’s happening at your lake, and what can NYSFOLA do to help?
9:00-10:30PM	Tepee Open for Refreshments & Continued Discussion

Saturday May 5, 2007



7:00-8:00AM Breakfast, White Eagle Lodge
8:15:AM Registration at the Appley Center
8:45AM Welcome-NYSFOLA President Donald Cook, Announcements
9:00AM-4:30PM Concurrent Sessions, Commercial Exhibits, Silent Auction

Session A1: Invasive Species Control:

9:00-9:35AM *“Reducing Phosphorous Loads and Complying....”*
Dr. Fred Lubnow, Director of Aquatic Programs, Princeton Hydro LLC
9:45-10:20AM *“RENOVATE: a Newly Registered Aquatic Herbicide”*
Shaun Hyde, Northeast Aquatic Specialist, SePRO Corporation

10:20-10:40AM BREAK
10:40-11:15AM TITLE/SPEAKER TBA
11:15AM-12:00PM *“Controlling Water Chestnut in Sodus Bay, Lake Ontario”*
Eric A. Paul, Biologist, NYS DEC Aquatic Toxicant Research Unit, Rome, NY
Bob Fahy, Upstate Applications

Session A2: Water Over the Dam: Flooding and Dam Safety Issues

9:00-9:35AM *“Proposed Revisions to the NYS Dam Safety Regulations”*
Alon Dominitz, PE, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
9:45-10:20AM *“Dam Repair: A Case Study from Goodnow Flow:”*
Dean Long, NYSFOLA Board of Directors, The L.A. Group
10:20-10:40 BREAK
10:40-11:15AM TITLE/SPEAKER TBA
11:25AM-12:00PM TITLE/SPEAKER TBA



Session A3: Limnology 101: A Beginner’s Guide to the Science of Lakes

A perennial favorite presented by our friends from the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station



This session is designed for “first time” NYSFOLA Conference attendees or those just learning the basics of lake ecology. Feel free to ask questions!

Session A4: Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop -

Another favorite featuring Dr. Robert Johnson and Paul Lord, Cornell University and their plant collection.

12:00PM LUNCH
Annual Membership Meeting



Session B1: Emerging Water Quality and Lake Ecology Issues

1:30-2:15PM ***“Viral Hemorrhagic Septecemia in New York Lakes”***
Paul R. Bowser, PhD, Professor of Aquatic Animal Medicine
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

2:15-2:50PM TBA—***Toxic Algae***
2:50-3:10PM BREAK
3:10-3:45PM TBA—***Pharmaceuticals and other Chemicals***
3:45-4:30PM ***“The Road Salt Dilemma: Traffic Safety vs. Water Quality”***
Panel Discussion



Session B2: Land Conservation as a Lake Management Tool

Titles and speakers TBA

Session B3: Wetlands Issues

Titles and speakers TBA

Session B4: Managing Stormwater and Sediment

Titles and speakers still TBA, but we are looking for speakers on dredging (case study), shoreline stabilization, etc.

Session B5: CSLAP Training for New Volunteers

We will gather in the Cleveland Building. Dress for the weather!

4:30-5:00PM **BREAK**
5:00 PM **Wine and Cheese Party**
6:15PM **Silent Auction Winners Announced**
6:30PM **Banquet** - Lake Steward Awards, Media Award, Newsletter Award,
Lake Tear of the Clouds Award

Keynote Speaker: Richard Konsella, P.E., Retired Bureau Chief, NYS DEC Flood Protection and Dam Safety, ***“A History of Floods and Flood Protection in New York State”***

8:30PM-10:30PM **Tepee Open for Refreshments**

SUNDAY MAY 6, 2007

7:30-8:30PM **BREAKFAST**-White Eagle Lodge
9:00AM-12:00PM **SESSIONS TBA**

A Broader, but Murkier, Perspective on Water Quality In U.S. Lakes and Rivers

By Rebecca Schneider, Cornell University

Thanks to the enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972, and its subsequent Amendments, the combination of a set of scientifically justified water quality standards, federal support for water treatment facilities, and a system for monitoring and enforcement have provided U.S. citizens with arguably the cleanest and most plentiful drinking water supply of any nation.

This single resource is the key to reducing disease and infant mortality and extending life-expectancy in countries worldwide. The emphasis for water quality protection initially focused on controlling phosphorus and nitrogen as two key nutrients that contribute to obvious eutrophication and degradation of our lakes and streams. Notable in this development was the mandated removal of phosphorus from detergents and soaps which resulted in visible improvements of the Great Lakes and other water bodies. Other related water quality initiatives have controlled industrial emissions, responsible for acidic precipitation and lake degradation, and made improvements to sewage management to reduce the risks of human pathogens.

A 2000 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) survey of water quality across the U.S. indicated that roughly 1/3 of the rivers surveyed and 1/2 of the lakes, are too polluted for swimming or fishing. The percentage of polluted streams rose from 4% in 1998 to 39% in 2000. The percentage of polluted lakes remained unchanged at 45% over the same time period.

Runoff from farmland and sewage treatment plants continues to be cited as a major contributing factor.

However, thousands of new chemicals have been introduced into our lives, our wastewaters, and our freshwaters. Only recently

have we turned our attention to looking at their effects, and the findings are not encouraging.

A nation addicted to pesticides for decades, and currently using one billion pounds per year, is one piece of the problem. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) recently released a 2006 report on their survey of 100 pesticides in 51 major river basins nationwide. They detected pesticides in almost every stream studied, and the most frequent occurrence of pesticides was found in shallow groundwater beneath agricultural lands and urban areas. Most frequently detected in agricultural areas were atrazine, metolachlor and cyanazine whereas three other pesticides typically used in cities for controlling insects, rats and other pests (simazine, prometon and tebuthiuron) were detected in urban streams. The pesticides were almost always detected at low concentrations that were unlikely to affect people. However, they were also detected in most of the fish sampled.



Unlike pesticides which have received notoriety for decades, thousands of new chemicals have been introduced into our lives recently via cosmetic, health care, pharmaceutical, and other consumer products. Researchers from USGS found traces of these products downstream from water treatment plants in 139 rivers in 30 states. Caffeine is now so ubiquitous that it is gaining use as a signature of sewage contamination in freshwaters. Triclocarban, a chemical which makes soap **“antiseptic”** is also being found in waterways. In use for nearly 50 years, it gained public popularity and widespread use in handsoaps about a



decade ago. Recently, scientists have begun to look at the effects of this chemical. One study showed that triclocarban is barely broken down by conventional sewage treatment. Approximately 70% is released when treated sludge is spread on farmland, and as it degrades, the by-products **form an animal carcinogen. Triclocarban's other** impacts have not yet been investigated. The irony is, that in October 2005, the Federal Food & Drug Administration determined that the antiseptic does no more than regular soap in reducing the spread of illness.



This example gets at the core of the water quality issue. How are these thousands of chemicals affecting the

health of our lakes and streams, and also humans? Dr. Val Smith of the University of Kansas at Lawrence investigated the effects of triclosan, a chemical used in acne soaps, and the antibiotic ciprofloxacin, used to treat urinary tract infections, and found that their presence in stream water eliminated 1 to 2 species of algae from the stream community. Tergitol, a component of hair dyes and spermicides, halved the number of algal species present and reduced the volume of algae by three quarters. In a 1998 study, Dr. Stuart Levy of Tufts University in Boston, found that *E. coli* can develop resistance to triclosan.

Perhaps more disturbing are the **increased findings of "intersex" fish** from both the waters of the eastern United States and marine waters off the coast of California. Male fish have been found that contain ovary (egg-laying) tissue in their testes. Small-mouth bass with similar abnormalities have been collected throughout Maryland's Potomac River. In November 2005, impacted turbot and sole were collected off the Southern California coast. Scientists hypothesize that the likely causes are contraceptives and the estrogen-like chemicals released from plastics and other consumer products that are discharged in sewage wastewater.

Are humans immune to these same chemicals which are apparently widespread in our drinking water? In 2006, the activist organization Greenpeace pushed for tougher European Union legislation that regulates cosmetics and other consumer products for their impacts on reproductive health. They cited a large scientific literature reporting reproductive disorders including declines in fertility rates coincident with the release of many new chemicals. One 1992 study showed that the average sperm count fell 50% between 1940 and 1990 while the incidence of testicular cancer rose.

Disposal of Drugs

When prescription or over-the-counter drugs are thrown into the garbage, or flushed down the sink or toilet, their chemical components may be added to the water supply or soil. Here are two tips that can help:

- Take drugs as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Finish the medication.
- Buy smaller amounts of over-the-counter drugs to prevent them from expiring before they are used up.

What are the solutions to America's latest water problems? Fresh water will continue to grow scarcer as growing human demands are exacerbated by climatic change. Action is needed at levels of society. First, we need a nationwide effort to support legislation and federal funding for improving water infrastructure. Expansion of regulations to ensure proper disposal of pharmaceuticals, and to evaluate ecosystem and health impacts of new chemicals is critical. We cannot continue to treat water as a free resource. A change is needed in societal valuing and pricing of water to reflect the real costs associated with providing and protecting it. Finally, at the local level, we need to be more conscientious, informed, and responsible as consumers. We need to minimize the use of pesticides used for households, pets, and lawns. Whenever possible, we should use biodegradable household cleansers, laundry detergents and personal health care products.

Lake associations provide an excellent focal group for raising public awareness of these issues. As stewards of our lakes, and the people most directly affected when water is degraded, lake associations can educate their communities about the chemicals that continue to threaten our waters.

National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week February 25 - March 2, 2007

The Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of February 25 to March 2, 2007 to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the United States deal with invasive weed problems. The schedule has been designed to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional

delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

- Standing exhibits at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday Kid's Fun Day Activities
- Orientation for First Time Attendees
- Kickoff session on current national invasive weed issues
- Briefings with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior
- Social reception
- Meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
- Briefing by the National Invasive Species Council
- Special meetings with Federal Agencies

For More Information:

<http://www.nawma.org/niwaw> or call Dr. Nelroy Jackson (951)279-7787 or nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net



NALMS LOCAL LAKE AND WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANTS FOR TEACHERS GRADES K-12

The North American Lake Management Society and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are offering grant funding to lake and watershed oriented projects throughout North America.

Grants for up to \$1500 are available for grades 6-12 with projects that promote lake and watershed protection initiatives. Interested persons should send a cover letter, completed grant application, and letter(s) of support by APRIL 30, 2007. Grant award notifications will be made by June 1, 2007, and funds will be available by September 1, 2007.

For a grant application form and additional information, contact: Amy Smagula, NALMS Education Committee Chair (603)271-2248 or asmagula@des.state.nh.us.



CSLAPpenings

Greetings Volunteers!

Believe it or not, it's time to "THINK SPRING" at NYSFOLA. That means that the first boxes of supplies have arrived, and preparations are underway for the 2007 season. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 15TH, 2007.** The application forms are on the web at www.nysfola.org. To update everyone, here are answers to your most frequently asked questions:

2007 CSLAP FAQs



WHEN WILL WE RECEIVE OUR 2006 REPORT? Right now, the data has not yet been released by Upstate Freshwater Institute ("the lab"). There are thousands of samples each year, and quality assurance is very important. As soon as Scott gets the data, he will begin typing. He has about 100 reports to write. The first reports usually roll off his printer by late-winter or early spring.

WE WERE IN THE PROGRAM LAST YEAR. DO WE NEED TO FILL OUT THE FORM AGAIN? YES! It makes things much easier at the NYSFOLA office and the lab if we have those forms handy each year. Bottles will ship in the order that the completed paperwork is received.

WE WILL BE NEW TO THE PROGRAM. DO WE NEED TO GO TO THE TRAINING SESSION AT THE CONFERENCE? Yes...and No. We certainly prefer that volunteers who need training for the 2007 season attend the conference. This way, everyone gets trained early in the season. Otherwise, you will be at the mercy of Scott and/or Nancy's schedules during the start of the sampling season. You may not get started until July if we have to travel to your lake.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUNDING DEPTH AND THE SAMPLE DEPTH? The **sounding depth** is the depth of the lake at your sampling location. For instance, in a deep lake, you might be sampling at a spot where the lake is 45 meters deep. The **sample depth** is the depth from which you collected the sample. That depth is usually 1.5 meters for the surface sample (except in very shallow lakes). In all but the deepest lakes, because the ropes on the kemmerers don't go that far, hypolimnion samples should be collected about 1 meter from the bottom of the lake (or about 1 meter above the sounding depth). The sounding depth should never be exactly the same as the sample depth. Only in very shallow lakes should the sounding depth equal the first secchi disk reading. This indicates that the secchi disk is sitting on the bottom of the lake, and that light can penetrate through the entire water column.



I NEED MORE SUPPLIES OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT. WHAT DO I DO? Please put a note ON TOP OF YOUR COOLER when you send in your samples. If you need filters, or magnesium carbonate, please send the empty container for a refill. Do NOT write the request on either the Sampling Report form or the Observation Form. Those get filed immediately, and your request will probably not be seen for

several weeks! If you need something shipped before you can sample again, contact Nancy Mueller at NYSFOLA (800)796-3652 or folan@nysfola.org.

WHAT IF I FORGET TO SEND MY PAPERWORK WITH MY COOLER?



The Sampling Report and/or Observation Form can wait until the next cooler goes out. Make sure the sampling dates are on the forms. The Chain of Custody sheet REALLY needs to be with the cooler each time, and it needs to be the one that came with the bottles. That's why we pack them together. The numbers on that sheet, correspond to the numbers on the samples for that particular sampling session. If you forget the Chain of Custody sheet, or send the wrong one, the lab has to create a new one when the samples arrive.

WHAT, EXACTLY, HAPPENS WHEN MY COOLER ARRIVES AT UPSTATE FRESHWATER INSTITUTE?

It gets busy!! There are days when 20-40 coolers arrive on the UPS truck at the same time. The temperature of the samples is noted, and the bottles are checked to make sure they correspond to the enclosed Chain of Custody sheet. The other paperwork is filed for Nancy to pick up on her quasi-weekly trip to UFI. Depending on the type of sample, the bottles are either refrigerated or frozen until analysis time. Coolers with "notes on them" (supply requests, etc.) get set aside until the request can be fulfilled. The others are "lined up" for UPS labels and/or a new box. Finally, the boxes get yet another layer of packing tape, and they are put in the UPS pick-up spot for return to the volunteers.

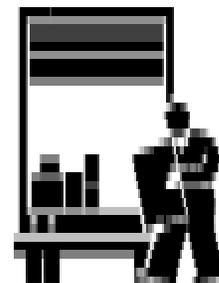
WE HAVE SOME ...NASTY GREEN STUFF, NASTY PURPLE STUFF, OR WEEDS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IDENTIFIED.

Vegetation samples get shipped to Scott in Albany if they arrive at UFI in a good state of preservation. Please don't put plants in bags of water. They arrive at UFI fairly decomposed, and they don't make it to Scott at all! Plants are best shipped dry.

ARE THERE ANY PROTOCOL CHANGES for 2007? Probably not, but PLEASE read any information that is shipped with your bottles. It will have the changes on it.

DON'T FORGET TO WRAP THE CHLOROPHYLL A VIAL IN ALUMINUM FOIL!

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? We're here to answer them.



Scott A. Kishbaugh, P.E., New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Nancy J. Mueller, New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc..



Dam Safety Update

In the October issue of "Waterworks," we advised NYSFOLA members about proposed revisions to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Dam Safety Regulations. There was concern about the proposed amendments, and NYSFOLA expressed this to key members of the New York State Legislature and other state leaders.

New York State Senator James Seward, 51st District, and his staff worked with NYSFOLA to make DEC aware of our concerns. On October 31st, his office forwarded our letter to DEC Commissioner Denise Sheehan asking her to examine the potential impacts of the regulations. "The writer is concerned that the regulations may unintentionally affect the dam owners of small lakes and impoundments where ownership may be in the hands of a small lake association or nonprofit organization." Commissioner Sheehan offered a brief response to Senator Seward on December 29th, "The Department is carefully considering all comments received on its preliminary draft regulations in developing a draft regulation for formal public review comment. The Department recognizes that the financial impact on dam owners is an important consideration that must be considered in conjunction with dam owners' responsibilities to operate and maintain their dams in a manner that protects the public." Commissioner Sheehan never responded directly to NYSFOLA, and she recently resigned as Commissioner.

We also received a response from Senator Michael Balboni, which was not supportive of our comments in any way. He commented, "It is unfortunate that insurance levels have risen to such rates. However, as safety and homeland security improve following new regulations imposed after 9/11, I remain hopeful that many insurance companies will be willing to take the risk of insuring the various dams in need of insurance." At the time of our letter, Senator Balboni served on both the Environmental Conservation and Insurance Committees.

Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward commented briefly, "As a member of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, I will be sure to bring your concerns to the committee when we resume session in January."

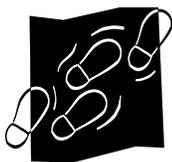
The Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform, under former Governor George Pataki stated that their office had not yet received the proposed rule. That office will "review the proposed rules of other State Agencies to insure that their regulations will not impair the economy, hinder job growth or retention, are consistent with law, and are not otherwise unduly burdensome."



Our only other response came from the Office of (then) Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Peter A. Drago, Director of Public Information and Correspondence, wrote: "I am in receipt of your recent letter to the Attorney General. He has asked me to thank you for making us aware of your concerns about proposed changes to the New York State Dam Safety Regulations. Your correspondence has been forwarded on to the appropriate members of our staff. I am sure that it will be of interest to them. We will keep your comments in mind during any discussions we may have on this issue."

Since we wrote our letter last fall, there has obviously been major upheaval in Albany, not the least of which is happening within the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

NYSFOLA members concerned about this issue should continue to communicate the potential impact of these regulations. We will keep you updated!



Getting In Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns

This guide provides detailed information on developing and conducting effective watershed outreach campaigns. You can download a pdf version at www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/getnstep.pdf

Coalition Against Milfoil (COLAM) Seeks to Unite With NYSFOLA

Last year, the NYSFOLA Board of Directors was approached by the leadership of the Coalition Against Milfoil (COLAM), to consider the possibility of greater collaboration, or even a merger, of the two organizations. COLAM was formed in the 1980s. Its primary membership consisted of lake associations in the Adirondack Region, including several active members of NYSFOLA. The primary goal, at that time, was to promote the New York State registration of the aquatic herbicide fluridone, commonly known by its trade name SONAR®. When approached for support, NYSFOLA's Board of Directors was reluctant to push a "one plant, one chemical" platform. While they supported COLAM's concern about the spread of Eurasian water milfoil, there was still wide controversy over the use of aquatic herbicides. There were also other invasive species throughout the state and other lake and watershed management issues to consider. Rather than offering broad support to COLAM, the NYSFOLA Board of Directors left the decision to support COLAM up to individual lake associations. Inevitably, SONAR® was registered for use in New York lakes and a greater scientific database regarding its use has developed.

Over the years, COLAM's focus has broadened. It now encompasses a greater spectrum of invasive species issues such that it is much more closely aligned with NYSFOLA's. The need for two separate entities has been diminished. However, COLAM has its own identity and "name recognition", especially in the eastern part of the state. They are somewhat reluctant to lose that despite the fact that most of COLAM's lake associations are also members of NYSFOLA.

In May, the NYSFOLA Board created an ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr. Willard Harman, to explore the means by which COLAM and NYSFOLA could combine their efforts. Lake George Association Communications Director, James Hood, has worked closely with COLAM for the last few years. He is also an active NYSFOLA member. He was appointed to the NYSFOLA Board of Directors as the first step in linking the two organizations.

The Board of Directors will continue to explore this issue, and we hope that member lake associations will continue to be involved as we work out the details. One thought was to invite some COLAM members to serve as part of an "Invasive Species Working Group" within the context of NYSFOLA. Your thoughts on this matter are most welcome!



Strangest Observation in a New York State Lake in 2006

"Bladder releasing and floating about the lake"

(We hope they meant bladderwort!)

24th Annual NYSFOLA Conference and Membership Meeting
White Eagle Conference Center Hamilton, NY
May 4-6, 2007

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE NYSFOLA OFFICE

We are unable to provide rooms or meals for those persons registering after **April 24th** or at the door, as accurate head counts must be made in advance to White Eagle Conference Center. Thank you!

FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Thursday evening - Sunday noon)

3 Nights lodging (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), 8 meals (Thursday dinner - Sunday breakfast)
 Conference Registration Included

() Single Occupancy - \$345.00 () Double Occupancy - \$550.00 \$ _____

2 DAY CONFERENCE PACKAGE (Friday evening - Sunday Noon)

2 Nights Lodging (Friday and Saturday), 5 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast)
 NOTE: This package does not include Friday lunch which can be added below:

() Single Occupancy - \$219.00 () Double Occupancy - \$368.00 \$ _____

1 DAY CONFERENCE PACKAGE

Friday () or Saturday () morning & afternoon sessions with lunch \$40.00 \$ _____

Friday () Saturday () or Sunday () sessions without lunch \$25.00 \$ _____

This price is for pre-registration only. The price at the door will be \$30.00.

Student : () Friday or () Saturday sessions with lunch \$20.00 \$ _____

Flexible Lodging/Conference Plans **Includes Conference Registration**

Thursday () Friday () or Saturday () Night Lodging

() Single \$90.00 per night () Double \$140.00 per night \$ _____

Thursday () or Friday () Dinner \$20.00 each \$ _____

Saturday Banquet () \$25.00 each \$ _____

Friday () or Saturday () Breakfast \$10.00 each \$ _____

Friday () or Saturday () Lunch \$15.00 each \$ _____

() Attending the 2007 CSLAP Training

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Please make checks payable to NYSFOLA. Remit to: NYSFOLA P.O. Box 84 LaFayette, NY 13084-0084

**Now Accepting
2007 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 "6", you need to submit your 2007 dues as soon as possible. If the digit is a "7" or an "8", you are a member in good standing of NYSFOLA. THANK YOU!

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.

**2007 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**

WATERWORKS

NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
2574 Webb Road
LaFayette, NY 13084

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Calendar of Events

*NY Invasive Plant Council Conference
February 7-8, Albany, NY*

*National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
February 25 - March 2, Washington, DC*

NYSFOLA Annual Membership Meeting and Conference
White Eagle Conference Center Hamilton, NY
May 4-6, 2006

