

Lakewatch

**SLPWA
Board of Directors**

President:

Mary Anne Kowalski

Vice-President:

John Flowers, 1st VP

Jim Bromka, 2nd VP

Secretary:

Barb Schiesser

Treasurer:

Addison Mason

Dick Adams

Rich Ahola

Jim Carter

Bobbi Clifford

Jim Hazlitt

Gary Judson

Ed Przybylowicz

Mark VanDoninck

Dave Youst

Dear SLPWA Member,

This edition of Lakewatch updates you on all the activities that Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA) is working on in 2014 to protect the lake.

The board and members are working on building our membership, following the plans to reuse Seneca Army Depot when the clean up is completed in 2015 and trying to assure that the review of the health impacts of high volume hydraulic fracturing by the State Health Department is open to the public.

Perhaps the most exciting is the stream monitoring to test the water quality of three streams that flow into Seneca Lake: Catharine Creek, Big Stream and Reeder Creek. The objective of this project is to provide data on these streams which will help communities improve the stream's water quality and ultimately the quality of the water in Seneca Lake.

In cooperation with the Community Sciences Institute (CSI) in Ithaca, New York and through the generosity of the Tripp Foundation of Elmira and Fresh Water Futures, Petoskey, MI, as well as funding from our own membership, SLPWA has developed a plan which you can read details about at www.senecalake.org. Details will also be provided in upcoming briefing meetings.

In short, the plan is to sample these 3 streams in several locations four times during 2014 on designated dates. The samples will be analyzed for nutrients and hazardous chemicals that are getting into the streams from a variety of sources. Developing such a baseline of information will be invaluable for future actions that the municipalities which border these creeks as well as the state and federal governments can use to preserve the water quality of Seneca Lake. SLPWA's partner, CSI is a fully qualified EPA and New York State certified laboratory that has been providing such information on streams the empty into Cayuga Lake, for the past ten years using volunteers to sample the streams. We plan to emulate this model on Seneca Lake.

IN THIS ISSUE!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE	1-2
SENECA ARMY DEPOT	2
IN MY OPINION...	3-4
THE BALANCE OF NATURE & SENECA LAKE	5
OUR TOWNS & VILLAGES	6
GAS STORAGE IN SALT CAVERNS	7

(continued on Page 2)

President's Message *(continued from front)*

The data from these analyses will be posted on the internet at the CSI website as well as on the SLPWA website and will be publically available approximately one to two months after the samples have been taken.

For each of the three streams in this pilot project, we hope to have a team of 10-12 people who will go through the training for sampling. With this sized team, there should be enough people available to handle each sampling event. The team itself will determine the timing of the sampling and this will be explained and discussed in greater detail at the one-time training session. This will involve 4 events throughout the next twelve months.

If you would be interested in serving as a team member for one of the streams in this pilot project, please send SLPWA an email at slpwa@senecalake.org giving us your contact information and the name of the stream: (1) Reeder Creek, (2) Catharine Creek, or (3) Big Stream that you would be interested in sampling.

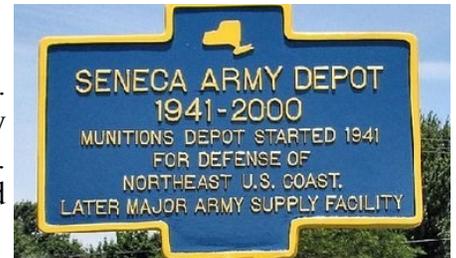
We will be scheduling the training shortly, so please contact us promptly if you want to join the effort.

Mary Anne Kowalski

President, SLPWA

SENECA ARMY DEPOT ACTIVITY

The Seneca Army Depot Activity (SEDA) site encompasses 10,587 acres. It lies between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes in the Finger Lakes. The Army has stored and disposed of military explosives at the facility since 1941. The Seneca Army Depot drains into Seneca Lake through Reeder and Kendaia creeks as well as many unnamed tributaries.



The groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2-Dichloroethene, vinyl chloride, and metals. Soils are contaminated with heavy metals, VOCs and SVOCs.

In 2015, the cleanup at the Seneca Army Depot is due to be completed. When that happens, the Army will depart and the area will be available for reuse.

To prepare for this event, the Planning Boards in the Towns of Varick and Romulus, in Seneca County, are in the process of revising the zoning, "to put the land back on the tax rolls." Possible reuses include cellulosic gasification, plastics to fuel plant, confined animal feeding operations (CAFO), and train/truck transloading facilities and junkyards. Potential uses may be visible from the west side of Seneca Lake.

To make sure that the final proposals protect Seneca Lake, the Seneca County Committee of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association is monitoring these zoning changes by attending meetings and commenting on proposals. If you share our concern for Seneca Lake and the drinking water of 100,000 people, please contact us and join the committee. We especially need help from residents of Romulus and Varick, who can attend meetings and comment to local officials.

Information about the current and proposed zoning recommendations are available from:

<http://romulustown.com/>

In My Opinion ... by Ed Przybylowicz

Ready, Fire, Aim ... The Long Shadow of Shale Drilling

It seems that Lake Watch is publishing more and more articles that stem from the shale drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale. This is not surprising because there are many long-term environmental and health hazards for Seneca Lake from high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF). Health impact assessment, land-fill expansions, expansion of gas storage facilities and increases in greenhouse gas emissions ... all issues that are a result of an industry that drills the Marcellus Shale because the gas is there and a worldwide appetite and market for this gas exists. The industry is pursuing a "Ready, Fire, Aim" strategy as evidenced in states where HVHF has been used for several years. Violations of present drilling regulations are occurring; processes are being revised and regulations tightened as government and industry try to improve their "aim". But there is still plenty of damage being done. Over 3300 violations in Pennsylvania bringing \$5M in penalties (which averages to a paltry \$1500 per violation ...not much of a reminder to "follow the rules" for the gas industry) have occurred in Pennsylvania since the inception of HVHF.

Recent reports from Ohio indicate that a gas pipeline is being built to carry shale gas to the Gulf of Mexico to export it to places in the world that will pay more for the gas than the low prices we currently have in the U.S. The pipeline is expected to be built this year over the opposition of landowners whose land is being used via the eminent domain provisions of the law favoring the oil and gas industry. Export of this gas will undoubtedly bring higher prices which in the long-term will be reflected in higher prices for shale gas in this country. So more drilling will take place to satisfy a higher priced market.

Currently, there is a vigorous debate in Chemung County over the expansion of the landfill to accommodate cuttings from the Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania, a state which cannot handle the disposal volume of drillings they are producing within the state because the infrastructure for this is lacking. These drill cuttings, laden with brine that contains levels of radium-226 and -228, which exceed levels considered to be safe, are being diluted with other wastewater and are entering our waterways. Here radium will get concentrated by microorganisms in the streams and potentially find its way up the food chain through fish, plants etc. to the human level. Short term profits for Chemung County via Casella's business model to accept such hazardous materials in all its landfills appear to be accepted without sufficient evaluation of the long term health and environmental impact on our region. The Chemung landfill which was to serve the county for many decades will now be filled earlier than expected with drillings from Pennsylvania.

This past month, a paper in the peer-reviewed medical journal Lancet, reported on a workshop in the United Kingdom on November 15, 2013 on the topic, "The Health Implications of Fracking". This workshop addressed the issues associated with potential fracking operation in the UK, benefitting from reports on the over 52,000 HVHF wells operating in the United States. This study notes accurately, that:

"Scientific study of the health effects of fracking is in its infancy, but findings suggest that this form of extraction might increase health risks compared with conventional oil and gas wells because of the larger surface footprints of fracking sites; their close proximity to locations where people live, work, and play; and the need to transport and store large volumes of materials."

IN MY OPINION.....(continued)

Some of these are the issues already affecting our region and our lake before health effects have been studied and understood. As this article is written, SLPWA is anticipating receipt of information under the Freedom of Information Legislation (FOIL) from the NYS Department of Health on the health assessment of fracking being carried out by the state. Meanwhile, there appears to be no additional activity by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to address the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) from the tens of thousands of inputs they received over a year ago regarding the inadequacy of the draft that was issued in September 2012. It would seem that the DEC should be hard at work improving the generic impact assessment ... if only to demonstrate that they are listening to the people they are employed to serve.

With all of this uncertainty regarding the impact that such operations can have on our health and environment, one of the largest energy companies drilling in Pennsylvania (752 wells), Chesapeake Energy is having financial problems. Chesapeake posted a loss in 2013 of \$113 million. In February, Pennsylvania State Attorney General Kathleen Kane put together a working group to look into allegations of fraud against Chesapeake Energy. The company allegedly has arbitrarily reduced royalty payments to landowners. This is the same company that has paid Pennsylvania more than \$ 1 million dollars in fines for environmental violations and has also made political contributions of \$0.5M to state officials elected in the past few years.

“Ready, Fire, Aim” may be a useful approach for an entrepreneur with a new product to get to the market quickly. It is not the right approach with HVHF which carries serious risks to our health and environment. “Ready, Aim, Fire” is a safer approach. Governor Cuomo is wise in having New York State pursue the latter course; if it were only more transparent to the public.

JOIN AMAZON SMILE & HELP SLPWA

SLPWA has joined AmazonSmile. Please consider placing your Amazon orders through <http://smile.amazon.com/>. Go to AmazonSmile and select SLPWA as your charity and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to SLPWA.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to SLPWA.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

For more information, please visit <http://smile.amazon.com/>.



New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers to Easily Donate to Their Favorite Nonprofits

Climate Change and Seneca Lake

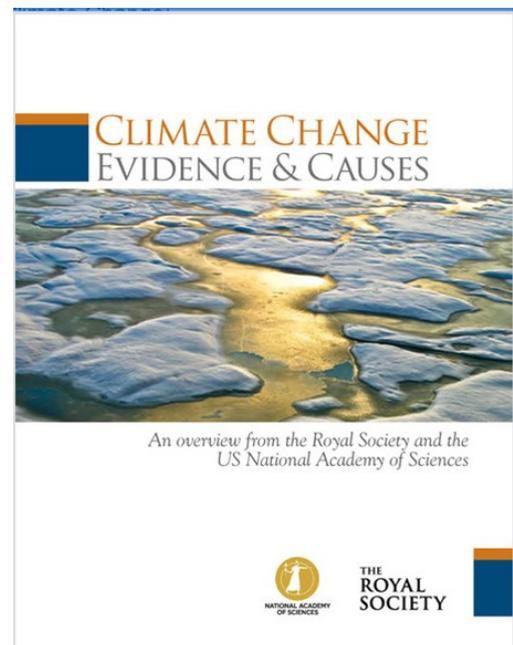
Ed Przybylowicz

We often refer to SLPWA and its mission as being “the voice of the lake”. The lake cannot speak for itself, so our association mission is to speak for it. This beautiful body of water is our recreational (boating, swimming, fishing), our environmental (maintains our lakeside climatic conditions for our wineries) and our drinking water (water for some 100,000 residents and thousands of businesses) source. Yet, we take for granted that it will continue to be there for all these purposes forever. Yet we recognize that some immediate incursions could change that picture in the long run. By raising concerns on specific issues such as proposals to store gas in abandoned salt mines, drill for natural gas in shale deposits surrounding the lake, insure that streams in our watershed are not carrying materials into our lake which will change its ecology we hope to alert our members and the public at large about these threats with the expectation that through such knowledge the public and municipalities will take appropriate actions to protect the lake through regulation.

At our 2013 Annual Meeting, attendees heard Ben Wright from the engineering firm Hazen and Sawyer discuss how climate change can affect surface water quality, the very surface water that feeds this lake and that we depend on for our recreational, environmental and drinking water. Factors such as drought, heavy rainfall, temperature extremes and wind can dramatically change the quality of surface water which in turn will adversely affect the utility of the water. For some applications such as drinking water, additional water treatment must be carried out to correct for increases in turbidity, changes in pH and algae bloom. In centralized facilities such treatments are managed by professionals and are costly. For those residents who have individual sources, such treatment may not be possible to compensate for the problems. For some uses, we can only wait for the lake to return to “normal conditions”. If you would like to get more detail on how climate change can affect surface water quality, we refer you to Ben Wright’s publications, one of which can be found through our website.

In an even broader context, the issue of man-made climate change has been under active discussion for the past several decades and the evidence today is clear that carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane ... all greenhouse gases are increasing in the atmosphere as a result of human activity. These are the greenhouse gases which contribute to the climate change and the wide swings in weather patterns. These place an additional burden on our lakes. In an unprecedented move, the National Academies joined with the Royal Society of Great Britain in 2014 to publish a 37-page report which summarizes for the public the state of understanding on climate change.

Entitled, “Climate Change: Evidence and Causes”, this report can be downloaded free of charge from the National Academy Press at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18730.



Gas Storage in Salt Caverns

Ed Przybylowicz and Barbara Schiesser

The controversy over the proposal by Finger Lakes LPG Storage (a subsidiary of Crestwood Equity Partners) to greatly expand LPG storage in the Watkins Glen area abandoned salt caverns was reviewed in the last issue of Lakewatch. Since then, investigative reporter Peter Mantius referenced additional developments that greatly increase our concerns about the proposal. A consulting report for the law firm Earthjustice, dated January 15, 2014 by retired geologist, H. C. Clark (Rice University) reviewed the proposal by Arlington Storage Company LLC (another subsidiary of Crestwood Equity Partners) that included the confidential information supplied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which must approve such a project prior to implementation. Earlier, this consultant reviewed the proposal by Finger Lakes LPG Storage to store gas near the Arlington site.

In his thorough report (which can be found on our website) Clark points out that the abandoned salt mine galleries appear to be unstable as evidenced by some 400,000 tons of rubble that lays in these galleries as a result of a fault block which fell from the ceiling. This was reported in a published paper in 1969, a fact that Arlington denies in its application. Such instability suggests that further deterioration could take place and that stored gas could leak from the galleries and cause problems in the region. Historically, there are examples of explosions that have occurred from gas storage sites in which gas has leaked along fault lines into neighborhoods causing destruction and fatalities. In the proposals for the Watkins Glen area, the public is being kept from examining relevant information because the geology of these salt mines is being considered proprietary. Yet the applicants are not carrying out a comprehensive study or are willfully hiding some of the relevant facts. To insure public and environmental safety, the information which has recently surfaced showing serious omissions of vital information in the applicants' proposals are grounds for FERC and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, (NYSDEC) to deny any expansion of gas storage in these caverns.

Geologist Clark argues that the applicants need to provide the relevant scientific information about the stability or instability of these caverns and that FERC and NYSDEC should insist on these studies. Such data should be mandatory to draw any conclusions about the safety of this project.

While the public safety hazards associated with these proposals are of primary concern, the heavy industrialization and indirect air and water pollution which would result from the approval of these projects are additional health and environmental concerns. For all these reasons, many local businesses and residents vehemently oppose the project. A number of health professionals and legislators have written and/or signed letters in opposition to the project as have county governing bodies surrounding the lake.

Governor Cuomo's mantra that decision-making should be based on scientific facts must be followed to the limit on these proposals. To do otherwise would be endangering the lives of residents and visitors to our state and the environment of one of the most beautiful regions of our state. Residents must insist that the issues brought forward in geologist Clark's consulting report be addressed by appropriate scientific tools and measurements. In the meantime, the proposals by Crestwood Equity Partners' subsidiaries should be denied.

(NOTE: This article and the references can be found on our SLPWA's website: www.senecalake.org)



SLPWA MISSION:

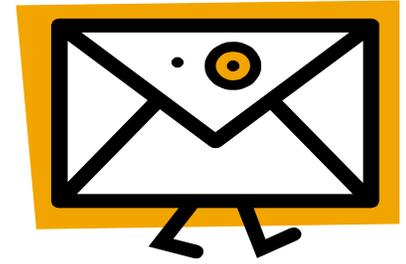
Enhance and Preserve the Quality of Seneca Lake

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association will further its mission through efforts to:

- *Promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat and general environmental conditions of Seneca Lake and its watershed;*
- *Sponsor scientific research of the watershed to establish baseline data and monitor changes;*
- *Collect, preserve, publish and disseminate information concerning Seneca Lake and its watershed;*
- *Encourage and support the compliance with laws and regulations;*
- *Collaborate with like-minded organizations; and*
- *Promote patterns of development and technology to further our mission.*

Is Your Email Updated?

Do we have your current email address? Periodically we send out an email blast to alert our members of breaking news or upcoming events.



Please make sure your current email address is filled in on your member renewal form when you return it!

1st QUARTER RENEWALS ARE IN THE MAIL

If your membership is due in January through March, your renewal letter and form is in the mail! Please look for it and your prompt response will keep us from incurring additional postage for sending out a 2nd reminder. Thank you for your continued support of SLPWA!

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
P.O. Box 247
Geneva, NY 14456

Seneca pure waters association inc.

GET A MEMBER - GET A PRIZE!

**SLPWA is kicking off a
Membership Campaign,
and we need your help!**



For every member you recruit, **BOTH** of your names will be entered into drawings for a Grand Prize Giveaway AND runner up prizes!

The package includes:

- One night stay for two at Sunrise Landing B & B,
(includes a full gourmet breakfast)
 - Dinner at Veraisons
- (\$100 gift card for Glenora Winery's restaurant)
 - 4 hour guided Seneca Lake Wine tour
(with Stompin' Good Times Wine Tours)

Runner Up Prizes include items donated by local businesses:

*Handcrafted cutting board, duffel bag,
SLPWA dock/house plates,
Scenic Seneca Lake notecards,
Gift certificates to local restaurants, and more!.*

Get a Member, Get a Prize campaign begins now and will run until June 30th. See other side for Member Application form!
Helping our membership grow increases SLPWA's ability to continue to be 'the Voice of Seneca Lake!



NAME _____
 PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
 EMAIL _____
 SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
INDIVIDUAL	\$30	\$54
FAMILY	\$50	\$90
SENECA SUPPORTER	\$75	\$135
PERSONAL PATRON	\$150	\$270
SENIOR/STUDENT	\$25	\$45
SMALL BUSINESS	\$50	\$90
GIFT _____		

NAME OF RECRUITING MEMBER:
 First _____
 Last _____

*Please circle the level of membership.
 Return form & check to SLPWA, PO Box, Geneva NY 14456 by June 30th to be eligible for drawings!*



NAME _____
 PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
 EMAIL _____
 SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
INDIVIDUAL	\$30	\$54
FAMILY	\$50	\$90
SENECA SUPPORTER	\$75	\$135
PERSONAL PATRON	\$150	\$270
SENIOR/STUDENT	\$25	\$45
SMALL BUSINESS	\$50	\$90
GIFT _____		

NAME OF RECRUITING MEMBER:
 First _____
 Last _____

*Please circle the level of membership.
 Return form & check to SLPWA, PO Box, Geneva NY 14456 by June 30th to be eligible for drawings!*



NAME _____
 PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
 EMAIL _____
 SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
INDIVIDUAL	\$30	\$54
FAMILY	\$50	\$90
SENECA SUPPORTER	\$75	\$135
PERSONAL PATRON	\$150	\$270
SENIOR/STUDENT	\$25	\$45
SMALL BUSINESS	\$50	\$90
GIFT _____		

NAME OF RECRUITING MEMBER:
 First _____
 Last _____

*Please circle the level of membership.
 Return form & check to SLPWA, PO Box, Geneva NY 14456 by June 30th to be eligible for drawings!*



NAME _____
 PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
 EMAIL _____
 SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
INDIVIDUAL	\$30	\$54
FAMILY	\$50	\$90
SENECA SUPPORTER	\$75	\$135
PERSONAL PATRON	\$150	\$270
SENIOR/STUDENT	\$25	\$45
SMALL BUSINESS	\$50	\$90
GIFT _____		

NAME OF RECRUITING MEMBER:
 First _____
 Last _____

*Please circle the level of membership.
 Return form & check to SLPWA, PO Box, Geneva NY 14456 by June 30th to be eligible for drawings!*