PLPWA’s MISSION...
...is to promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat and general environmental conditions of Seneca Lake and its watershed by sponsoring or undertaking scientific research, by collecting, preserving, publishing and disseminating information concerning Seneca Lake and its watershed and by encouraging and supporting the enforcement of laws and regulations and patterns of development and technology aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the lake.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This past August, the revitalization of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association was completed with the election of a Board of Directors made possible by the year long efforts of the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association re-organization committee which was chaired by Richard Ahola. The re-organization committee not only saved the organization from a certain demise but was able to increase the membership to over 250 individuals, families, businesses and municipalities who want to make sure the lake’s voice is heard and that the Mission of SLPWA is fulfilled. In addition to renewing our membership, the re-organization committee was able to support SLPWA’s Mission by becoming informed of the issues which affect the quality of the lake and its watershed. These issues included, lake level and its control, the impact of landfill leachate entering the lake, and potential impacts on the drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale using hyrdofracing and safe treatment and disposal of waste water from this process. Once informed, the re-organization committee shared what it learned with the membership by way of our new website www.senecalake.org and our quarterly newsletter, LakeWatch, both of which were re-established after several years’ absence.

As a voice of the lake, SLPWA made its lake stewardship position known to a number of our local, state and national leaders on these issues by communicating with them on behalf of our membership. Our position has been simple, if there is potential harm to the quality of the lake and/or its watershed we want our officials to take the time to put policies and practices in place that limit the risks and provide adequate protections for the lake and its watershed. These protections include: taking the time to properly investigate potential effects, making sure regulations are in place to properly manage the risk, sharing the assessment of risk with the public, and most importantly, having the resources and plans in place to follow-up to make sure what was said was done and continues to be done.

There continues to be threats to the quality of the lake and its watershed and there is much more work that needs to be accomplished. Your new Board of Directors are working hard to continue the stewardship role for Seneca Lake and its watershed. You can see who is on the board, read short biographies on each member and learn about their particular interests in the lake in this newsletter.

The strength of any organization is its membership and their willingness to make the organization successful. If each of us can recommend SLPWA to someone new, our organization will double in size and our stewardship voice for Seneca Lake will grow accordingly. Thank you for your continued support of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association and we look forward to working together to protect the quality of Seneca Lake and its watershed for the enjoyment of future generations.

Phil Cianciotto,
SLPWA President
Have You Checked Out Our Website?

We hope by now that you have had an opportunity to check out Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association’s website at www.senecalake.org. If not, check it out, and if you have, check in again as we are “under construction” and evolving daily. In the website you’ll find past issues of our Lakewatch newsletter, meeting notes of our monthly meetings, the organization’s By-Laws, updates to current issues that affect the quality of the Seneca Lake Watershed, a “Links Page” that will take you to a number of linked websites of interest to those interested in Seneca Lake. Send us your favorite photos and look for them on our photo page or on other pages of the website. We also invite your comments regarding the website and ideas on how we can make it better. Please send your ideas, comments and photos to us at SLPWA@senecalake.org.

The Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association Needs You!

The Board has established a number of committees to sustain and grow the organization and to work on critical issues facing Seneca Lake and the watershed:

- Membership and Annual Fund Campaign
- Spring and Fall membership/community educational workshops Marcellus Shale
- Gas drilling Lake Level monitoring Landfill Leachate and impact of landfills
- Monitor government decisions that might impact the lake regarding maintenance of water quality for drinking and recreational uses; Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and drugs

Seneca Lake Needs YOUR Help! If there are other issues we should be working on or if you are willing to volunteer to serve on one or more of these committees, please let us know by contacting us at: SLPWA@senecalake.org

Next meeting:
November 19, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
Finger Lakes Institute
601 S. Main Street, Geneva

Marcellus Shale Drilling

It is estimated that the Marcellus Shale layer which spreads across the Southern Tier and Catskill Mountain Region within New York State and continues into Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio contains one of the largest deposits of natural gas (over 500 trillion cubic feet) in the United States. Exploitation of this source of gas has significant environmental implications and SLPWA plans to actively participate in monitoring and responding to the legislative, regulatory and operational activities associated with this major program. Presently a subcommittee of the Board of Directors is preparing a response to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Draft SGEIS (now available for public comment) at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58440.html

Look for discussion of this issue and the involvement of SLPWA members in this project at the monthly meetings of SLPWA.

EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED!

Do we have your email address? If not could you please send it to: SLPWA@senecalake.org

We can quickly notify you of any “Action Alerts”, watershed news, meeting announcements, and any other important notices to keep you alerted and aware of events concerning water quality issues of Seneca Lake.

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PROJECT UPDATES ON IMPORTANT ISSUES—FALL 2009

**Seneca Lake Levels:** In the graph from our web link [NYS Canal System: Seneca Lake Level at Geneva](http://www.senecalake.org), available on the ‘Lake Links’ page on our website [www.senecalake.org](http://www.senecalake.org), you can see that the level of the lake has dropped below the control limits. This is the second year in a row that the lake has dropped below the control limits during the months of September and October. SLPWA continues communicating with NYS and Federal officials to get the agreed upon lake levels honored by those who have control over lake level outflow.

**Marcellus Shale Drilling:** At the end of September the NYS Department of Conservation issued its Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (Draft SGEIS) report for the drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus shale formations in New York State. You can find a link to the NY DEC Marcellus Shale Page on the “Lake Links” web page of our website: [www.senecalake.org](http://www.senecalake.org).

The public comment period has recently been extended to Dec. 31, 2009. Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association is preparing a report to the DEC as part of the public comments requested on the Draft SGEIS in support of our mission to promote the preservation and improvement of water quality in Seneca Lake and its watershed.

We expect our comment to be sent to the DEC and DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis by the end of November based on the original deadline for public comment. We are planning to post a link to our comment on the ‘SLPWA Projects’ web page on our website [www.senecalake.org](http://www.senecalake.org). This should give members time to review our comments regarding the 804 page draft SGEIS report, and if they so desire, send in their own comments to the DEC.

According to the DEC dSGEIS Marcellus Shale Web Page: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58440.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58440.html); the Department is offering four ways in which to submit comments. Comments may be provided at one of the scheduled public hearings. They have created an on line submission system which will allow you to write comments and tag them to your areas of concern. Attachments can also be included. You may submit e-mail comments; they ask that you include your name, e-mail or return mail address to ensure notice of the Final SGEIS when it is available. Finally, written comments should be sent to: Attn: dSGEIS Comments, Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation, NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, 625 Broadway, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12233-6500.

**Area Landfill Issues:** Finger Lakes Zero Waste Coalition, [www.fingerlakeszerowaste.org](http://www.fingerlakeszerowaste.org) has an excellent website detailing their efforts to make area residents and other stakeholders aware of the actions at the area landfills.

**Proper Pharmaceutical Disposal:** Please don’t throw your old/expired pharmaceuticals and over the counter drugs in the garbage or flush them into the sanitary sewer system, or your septic tank system. There is growing evidence that these practices are adding to the levels of these materials in our streams, rivers and lakes. We do not metabolize these over the counter and prescription items completely when we take them resulting. This results in a level of them in our waste streams that is unavoidable. We can, however, avoid any unnecessary additions by holding onto any unused or expired pharmaceutical and over the counter drugs until there is a nearby local program for accepting these materials. The collected items are disposed of using high temperature incinerators which destroy these potentially harmful materials to relatively low level combustion products. As we become aware of collection programs in the Seneca Lake Watershed – we’ll use the ‘SLPWA Projects’ page on our website to let you know the details so we minimize the impacts of these materials in our watershed.
Can You Help Seneca Lake?
MORE MEMBERS MEANS THAT SLPWA CAN REACH OUT TO MORE PEOPLE AND WE CAN HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN WATER QUALITY ISSUES FOR SENECA LAKE AND THE REGIONAL WATERSHED.

COULD YOU HELP US SEEK NEW MEMBERS?
IF EVERY MEMBER WOULD GIVE THIS APPLICATION TO ONE PERSON WHO WOULD JOIN, WE WOULD DOUBLE OUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________
Name: ________________________________________________________________
Organization: ___________________________________________________________
Street: _________________________________________________________________ P.O. Box ___________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip + four: ____________________________
Phone: __________________________
Email: ____________________________

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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Make checks payable to: Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, Inc.
Mail this form to: SLPWA P.O. Box 247 Geneva, New York 14456

Contributions are tax-deductible charitable donations to the extent allowed by the law.
Highlights of Annual Meeting, August—2009

On August 26th, over 120 people attended SLPWA’s Annual Meeting, the first since its reorganization last year. The meeting and dinner was held at Belhurst Castle with complimentary wine donated by Hazlitt Vineyards. Rich Aloha, Acting President of the Reorganization Committee welcomed the participants and presided over the meeting.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Ronald E. Bishop (pictured right), addressed the Impacts of Natural Gas Extraction from New York’s Shales large-scale development of the gas-rich shales and tight sand formations of New York that is alarming to many residents due to accidents and incidents of groundwater contamination that have plagued this industry in other parts of the USA. Dr. Bishop anticipated that an unprecedented industrialization of our landscape will result from natural gas extraction here.

Gary Byron (pictured left), was a keynote speaker addressing The Environmental Realities of Drilling the Marcellus Shale. His non-technical presentation highlighted the operational facets of drilling the Marcellus, touching on the problems associated with securing a frac water supply, and the more significant problems associated with treatment of blow-back brine waters, highlighting PA’s new regulatory approach which focuses on the "big 4" - Chlorides, TDS, Barium and Strontium.

Marion Balzyak (pictured left), Director of the Finger Lakes Institute, presented Setting the Course for Seneca Lake and the Fingers Lakes. Her talk highlighted the efforts of FLI since its inception and the important efforts that members of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association have as stakeholders.

Certificates of appreciation were given to members of the Reorganization Committee: Bruce Adams, Richard Ahola, Jim Bromka, Kenneth Bruielly, Jim Carter, Phil Cianciotto, Bobbi Clifford, Linda Hiestand, Doug Knipple, Mary Anne Kowalski, Ed Przybylowicz, Robert and Barb Schiesser.

Special recognition was given to Marion Balzyak and Dr. John Halfman for their significant contributions in promoting awareness and providing invaluable information regarding the water quality issues of Seneca Lake.
A new multimedia informational package has been produced by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in partnership with the Department of State. The package is designed to encourage local governments and groups to form networks and strengthen partnerships with other local entities to improve water quality. The package includes a multimedia informational guidebook and video. For more information, visit www.nyswaterfronts.com or contact the Department of State's P.O. Box 247, Geneva, NY 14456.