

Network News



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Trail Tales

By Hilary Lambert, Steward

Communities in the Cayuga Lake watershed are building new pedestrian trails within their borders for local use and for visitors. Many of these trails tie into (or plan to, someday) the 562-mile Finger Lakes Trail with its 236 additional miles of branch trails, including the 177-mile Conservation Trail and the 8.5-mile Cayuga Trail. These volunteer-maintained walking and hiking trails form an interwoven web of pedestrian thoroughfares across our watershed and region – and beyond. In the Catskill Mountains, the eastern end of the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) ties into another long-distance trail system, the north-south 347-mile Long Path, in turn linked to the 2200 mile north-south Appalachian Trail. The FLT's western end, in Allegany State Park, is a continuation of the 4100-mile North Country Trail, extending to North Dakota. Other major trails lead north and south at various points along the main Finger Lakes Trail. We benefit from making use of these walking ways, becoming immersed in a ground-level, slow-moving, contemplative grasp of our surroundings.



Melissa and Hannah Thiebault try out the new Lansing Town Trail in January 2011.

Getting Out There: Passport Project to Family Wellness

To encourage hiking, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference has established the Passport Project to Family Wellness in cooperation with four co-sponsors, who provide free passports (Wegmans Food Markets, Eastern Mountain Sports, Hickory Hill Camping Resort, and Monro Muffler Brake). Cornell Cooperative Extension and visitors bureaus across the region are also distributing passports. Twelve trail segments have been selected for ease of access and appeal to beginners and families, ranging in length from 1.4 to 4.5 miles. Along each one, a hiker will find a trail register, and a distinctive marker that participants do a rubbing of into their passports. A special commemorative patch and discount coupons await those who complete four or more rubbings/hikes and send them in, with a bigger prize drawing in October. The final deadline for submitting a prize request is October 15,

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Creek and Lakefront Cleanups

Embrace the Lake!

Cayuga Lake and its creeks are at the heart and center of our lives, and need our celebration and protection. The Network urges people to embrace Cayuga Lake with creek and lakefront cleanups. Last year, eight groups participated – we hope they will help again this year, and be joined by several more. We need to completely embrace the lake with cleanups!

Is your group interested in doing a two-hour lakeshore cleanup, a creek cleanup on one of the 35 major creeks that drain to Cayuga Lake, or along one of the many hundreds of smaller creeklets and streams that give their waters to Cayuga Lake? The Network supplies “Embrace the Lake” posters and flyers, gloves, trash bags from American Rivers, and snacks. We help with publicity, and make the contact for trash pick-up afterwards. Contact: Ashley Benning (our Wells College intern) at ambismb@aol.com for more information and look for information at our website, www.cayugalake.org.

WHEN: We'll have a celebration and kickoff cleanup during mid-April as part of Earth Day's 2011 “Billion Acts of Green®” and in honor of Earth Day on April 22. A rolling schedule will keep cleanups going until the plants grow too high for effective cleanups.

WHERE: Anywhere in the Cayuga Lake Watershed, where waters are flowing in the direction of Cayuga Lake. Do you have a favorite neighborhood creek or wetland, where trash has built up? Here is your chance to get that cleaned up. Was your picnic spot or shoreline area along the lake marred by garbage, last fall? Let's get that stuff out of there!

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Here is a list of the major creeks around the lake. Which one is yours?

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Barnum Creek Area | Groves/Powell Creeks Area | Red Creek |
| Big Hollow Area | Gulf Creek Area | Salmon Creek |
| Bloomer/Mack Creeks Area | Hicks Gully | Schuyler Creek Area |
| Canoga Creek Area | Interlaken Area | Sheldrake Creek |
| Cascadilla Creek | King Ferry Station Area | Six Mile Creek |
| Cayuga Inlet | Lake Ridge Point Area | Taughannock Creek |
| Cayuga View Area | Lansing Area | Trumansburg Creek |
| Cayuga Village Area | Lavanna Area | Union Springs Area |
| Fall Creek | Little Creek Area | Virgil Creek |
| Glen/Dean Creeks Area | McDuffie Town Area | Willow Creek Area |
| Glenwood Creek Area | Minnegar Creek Area | Yawger Creek |
| Great Gully | Paines Creek | |

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

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Aurora, NY 13026
www.cayugalake.org
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OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday and Thursday
10am - 5pm
And by Appointment

STAFF:
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INTERNS:
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The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network thanks Westhill Graphics of Ithaca and Pioneer Printing of Lodi for their support and excellence.



Last year's Embrace the Lake cleanups included Girl Scout Troop 1107's work along a Cascadilla Creek tributary in Ellis Hollow; Trout Unlimited's cleanup on Fall Creek at Ithaca Falls and downstream; Wells College's Campus Greens cleanups on the creeks that flow across campus; and Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition neatening up nature preserves on Fall Creek in Dryden.

WHO: Individuals, families, schools, churches, Scouts, community groups. You! As a group organizes for a cleanup, we'll help pick a good spot along the chosen creek or waterfront area that is safe for all ages and approved by landowners, and get the word out via email, a press release to local newspapers, radio, etc. We are only asking for a couple of hours of volunteer time to pick up trash and clean up around a carefully-selected area.

You can join a group that is already organized, or start your own.

To start your own group and cleanup event, we'll help you organize the following details:

- A coordinator for your group – name, contact information (preferably both phone and email).
- You might want to come up with a fun name for your group and cleanup!
- A cleanup location – safe, easy-to-get-to with nearby parking, and

landowner permission to be there. We'll need clear directions to provide to volunteers who want to show up on the date.

- A time period for the cleanup (two to four hours at most) and rainedate.
- Publicity – a short news release for local newspapers, radio stations, and other places you suggest (we'll help write that and send it out).
- Garbage bags to fill, and someone to collect and dispose of them properly afterwards (we'll help organize the

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Announcing the Network's 2011 Spring Symposium

Our Wetlands: A Community Treasure

Co-Sponsored by Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR)
in collaboration with the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC).

April 9, 2011
Free and open to the public

Montezuma Audubon Center • 2295 Route 89 Savannah NY

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network has organized, along with partners at the Montezuma Refuge, the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC) and the DEC, an exciting Spring Symposium, "Our Wetlands: A Community Treasure," on Saturday April 9 at the Montezuma Audubon Center.

Gather at 9 am for Coffee (*courtesy of Friends of Montezuma*),
Registration and to Order Lunch (*you may also bring your own*).

Welcomes and an Introduction begin at 9:30 am

Talks begin at 10 am, featuring:

HOWARD GOEBEL (NYS Canal Corp)
speaks on water level management and how water levels impact the wetlands.

SARAH FLEMING (Ducks Unlimited)
describes the NY conservation program with reference to Montezuma. A brief refreshment break, provided courtesy of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization.

TONY EALLONARDO (SUNY ESF)
describes The Nature Conservancy's inland salt marsh.

ZACK ODELL (The Nature Conservancy)
discusses land protection.

Talks will be followed by a panel discussion by the speakers, perhaps joined by others.

1:10 pm Break for Lunch

Following lunch, Frank Moses, Director of the MAC, will conduct a walking tour of the MAC grounds.

A poster advertising the event can be found by clicking on the Symposium title under the events calendar at <http://www.cayugalake.org/news/events.php>

Andrea VanBeusichem at the Refuge can answer any questions.
Call (315) 568-5987 x228, or Andrea_VanBeusichem@fws.gov
Judy Pipher (Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Program Cte)
can also answer questions at jlpipher@pas.rochester.edu

The Montezuma Audubon Center is located approximately 2 miles north of the Hamlet of Savannah on State Route 89 and is a part of the 36,000 acre Montezuma Wetlands Complex (MWC).
Online at http://ny.audubon.org/CentersEdu_Montezuma.html ; phone (315) 365-3580.

Watch for postcard mailing to all Network members; information at www.cayugalake.org; email reminder to CWN listserv; notices in area community calendars and on the Montezuma Audubon and Wildlife Refuge websites.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network & Partners Present a Symposium

Our Wetlands: A Community Treasure

Saturday, April 9
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Montezuma Audubon Center

2295 State Route 89, Savannah, NY 13146



**Cayuga Lake
Watershed Network**



Montezuma
National Wildlife Refuge

**MONTEZUMA Audubon
CENTER**

 **Department of
Environmental Conservation**

The Day's Schedule

| | |
|-------|---|
| 9:00 | Gather, Morning Refreshments, Place Lunch Order |
| 9:30 | Welcomes & Introductions Hilary Lambert (CLWN) Jim Eckler (NYS DEC) Frank Moses (MAC) Linda Ziemba (MNWR) |
| 10:00 | Howard Goebel (NYS Canal Corporation), Water Level Management |
| 10:35 | Sarah Fleming (Ducks Unlimited), NY Conservation Program |
| 11:10 | Refreshment Break |
| 11:30 | Tony Eallonardo (SUNY ESF), TNC Inland Salt Marsh |
| 12:05 | Zack Odell (The Nature Conservancy), Land Protection |
| 12:40 | Panel Discussion |
| 1:10 | Lunch (bring your own or place order when you arrive) |
| 2:00 | Walking Tour of Montezuma Audubon Center Grounds with Director Frank Moses |

For More Information:
Andrea VanBeusichem
315/568-5987 ext. 228
Andrea_VanBeusichem@fws.gov

Special Thanks to:



Trail Tales *continued from cover*

2011. Passport booklets contain hiking maps, registration and rubbing instructions, and all other details. Contact FLTinfo@fingerlakestrail.org and go to www.fingerlakestrail.org for more information.

From time to time, our newsletter will feature a Trail Tale to help get our members out walking and enjoying the natural beauties of our lake and its creeks. We'll also link our watershed to upstate waters and beyond, via boats small to large. Please contact us if you'd like us to feature your local land or water trail. At the end of this article are internet links to the trails named above.

Lansing Town Trail

The new Lansing Town Trail meanders 2.4 miles on about 140 acres of town-owned land opposite the Lansing Town Hall, situated above Cayuga Lake near its southeastern end. The trail is designed as a perimeter path with a few interior loops, with wonderful views of the Cayuga Lake valley, the Finger Lakes National Forest backbone, Connecticut Hill, and Newfield hills. The trail will initially be used for walking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Phase 1 of the project opened in cold weather to enthusiastic users in January 2011. The trail is gentle, open, and fairly flat. Visitors stroll alongside big open fields and through thickets of willows, past small streams heading downhill toward the lake. The goal is to develop about 4 miles of trail covering most of the perimeter of the land with spur paths leading into shaded wooded areas.

Trailhead parking is located east of the Lansing Town Hall and Library on the north side of State Route 34. Getting there from the East: At the intersection of NY-34B N (Peruville Rd.) and Triphammer Rd. near Xtra Mart, head

west on NY-34B N for .1 miles, turn left at NY-34S/NY-34B N, continue .1 miles and turn right into trailhead parking area. From the West: At the intersection of NY-34N (East Shore Drive) and NY-34B S, head east .4 miles on NY-34N/NY-34B S and turn left into trailhead parking area. Dogs on leashes – no trash – closed after dark – stay off private property – and other reasonable rules are posted.



The new Lansing Town Trail, from brochure. Lansing Recreational Pathways Committee, 2010.

Want to Get Involved?

Lansing Recreational Pathways Committee (LRPC) is a group of local citizens promoting the development of non-motorized recreation and transportation trails in the town of Lansing and is recognized as an official town committee. The new Lansing Town Trail is LRPC's first trail development project. Help is needed for trail building, maintenance, planning and development. Please email: info@lansing-pathways.com. The LRPC's website with printable brochure: www.lansingtown.com/pathways.html 🐦

SOME LOCAL TO LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL SYSTEMS

Cayuga Waterfront Trail:
www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com

Cayuga Trail, maintained by the Cayuga Trails Club:
www.cayugatrailsclub.org

Finger Lakes Trail, maintained by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference:
www.fingerlakestrail.org

Conservation Trail, maintained by the Foothills Trail Club:
www.foothillstrailclub.org

Long Path, maintained by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference:
www.nynjtc.org

Appalachian Trail, maintained by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy:
www.appalachiantrail.org

Creek and Lakefront Cleanups Embrace the Lake *continued from page 3*

pickup, and will provide garbage bags, and gloves to wear).

- A sign-in sheet for all participants (we will provide this).
- Signed safety waivers for all participants (we will provide waivers).
- Adult supervision and permissions for all youngsters.
- Appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Refreshments.
- Someone to take photos and keep notes of what you collect.

Afterwards, we'll want to know:

- How many bags of garbage did you collect?
- What was the grossest thing you found?
- What was the largest thing you found?
- What was the weirdest thing you found?
- How would you improve this event for next year?

Awards will be made for Best, Most, Largest, Weirdest, etc!

Business Sponsorships:

We are seeking donations from area businesses to help support this project. Please contact steward@ycaugalake.org if you are interested.

How to Get Involved:

- Contact Ashley Benning (our Wells College intern) at ambismb@aol.com for more information;
- Watch for information at our website, www.cayugalake.org.
- Check out our Facebook page, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network;
- And watch for fun and info at cayugalakeblog.blogspot.com.



Hydraulic Fracturing & Other Water Protection News and Events

- Wetlands, Appalachian mountaintops and valleys, and EPA's ability to control polluters are all under attack in the US Congress. Go to the Clean Water Network's website for updates from Washington DC, and information on what you can do: www.cleanwaternetnetwork.org.
- Coverage of the fast-breaking news and developments around hydraulic fracturing/gas drilling and potential impacts to water resources will return in the next issue of Network News.
- Meanwhile, join the Network's listserv to receive news and event updates (contact jlpipher@pas.rochester.edu or steward@cayugalake.org to be added).
- Check our new calendar of events at www.cayugalake.org, join us on Facebook at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network page, and get into the water talk at CayugaLakeBlog: www.cayugalakeblog.blogspot.com.



Please Join or Donate to the Network

Joining or donating is easy to do!

MAIL: Fill out the information below, select a donation level, and mail the form with your check to Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, P.O. Box 348, Aurora, NY 13026

PAYPAL: Join via your PayPal account or credit card online at www.cayugalake.org

- I am joining the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network with the enclosed contribution.
- I am renewing my membership with the enclosed contribution.
- Send a gift membership to the person listed below, and send me a gift card to give them.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ May we add you to our listserv? Yes No

Please Select the Support Level You Prefer:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Watershed Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Farm/Small Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Lake Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization or Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student/Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Headwater Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Thank you for your support!!!

Your Contributions to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network are tax deductible.



UPCOMING EVENTS *in the Cayuga Lake Watershed*

MARCH 31-APRIL 2: “Gas Drilling, Sustainability & Energy Policy: Searching for Common Ground,”

the Cornell Environmental Law Society 2011 Energy Conference. Myron and Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY. For information and to register: <http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/research/ELS/index.cfm>

APRIL 9: “Our Wetlands: A Community Treasure” – the Network’s 2011 spring conference. *See separate announcement on pages 4 & 5.*

PHARMACEUTICALS & PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS COLLECTION EVENTS

The NY Department of Environmental Conservation maintains a statewide online Household Drug Collection events schedule at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/63826.html>. Following are some disposal events in central NY State for spring 2010. Check schedule for other locations.

APRIL 9:

Ithaca – 9 am-3 pm, TCAT bus garage, 737 Willow Avenue (off Rte 13).

Trumansburg – 9 am-10:30 am, Juniper Manor 1 senior housing, 24 Elm St. Trumansburg.

Newfield – 11:30am-1 pm, Newfield Garden Apts. senior housing, 261 Main St. Newfield.

For more information call Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division (607) 273-6632, or go to www.recyclecomptkins.org. Sponsor: the Tompkins County Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal.

APRIL 30:

Cortland – 9 am-1 pm, Cortland Co. Regional Training Center, 999 Rte 13 Cortland.

For more information call: (607) 756-8970. Sponsor: Cortland Co. Seven Valleys Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

APRIL 16 THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY:

Embrace the Lake! Would your group like to hold a 2-hour creek or lakefront cleanup? The Network will help with posters, gloves, trash bags, newspaper and networking publicity, photos. Contact: Ashley Benning (our Wells College intern) at ambismb@aol.com for more information. *See list of Cayuga Lake creeks on page 2.*

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 8! Sunset on

Cayuga, Our Fund-Raising Dinner Dance, Returns!

New location at Wells College in Aurora! Tickets sales start soon. We are seeking major items as donations for auction and raffle prizes, and we are looking for volunteers who enjoy organizing this type of event. Contact steward@cayugalake.org ! 🦋

Please send details about interesting upcoming events in the Cayuga Lake watershed to steward@cayugalake.org.

The Mission... *The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.*



PO Box 348
Aurora, NY 13026

Return Service Requested

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|---|
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- 🦋 Education
- 🦋 Communication
- 🦋 Advocacy