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A Publication of the
Center for Environmental Information

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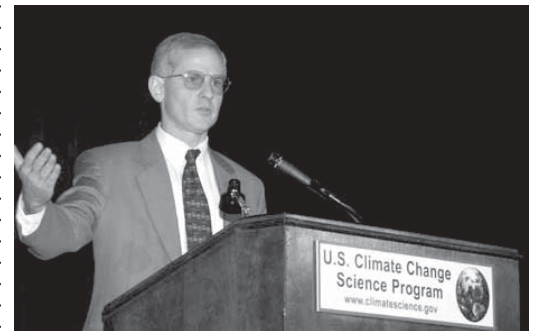
Climate Change: What's Next For Upstate New York?

Dr. Richard H. Moss, Director of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Office, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Community Salute to the Environment sponsored by the Center for Environmental Information on Tuesday, October 28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Dr. Moss' talk is entitled "Climate Change: What's Next for Upstate New York?"

The U.S. Climate Change Science Program coordinates the research of multiple federal agencies and focuses on establishing and applying priorities for climate change research so the Nation can address and evaluate global and climate change risks and opportunities.

Dr. Moss is an expert on the potential impacts of climate change, and has served as director or lead author of major reports prepared by the international group of scientists that has been assessing climate change impacts, adaptation, and mitigation strategies for more than a decade under the leadership of the World Meteorological Organization and the U.N. Environment Program.

The Community Salute to the Environment, a fundraiser to help support CEI's free public information services, brings together environmental leaders from government, industry and business, education, professional, and environmental organizations in the Rochester metropolitan area. For further information about tickets, contact CEI at 585-262-2870.



Dr. Richard H. Moss, Director of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Office, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Community Salute to the Environment

Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative Fall Workshops

As the summer season begins to wind down it is time to gather and assess what went well and what didn't go so well this summer along the Lake Ontario Coastline. CEI and its partners wish to give you the opportunity to share your experiences and questions with individuals, groups and agencies also concerned with coastal water. Four workshops will take place in the months of September and October in four locations around the Lake, one each for Niagara/Orleans, Monroe, Wayne/Cayuga, and Oswego/Jefferson Counties.

Because each of these areas can have different concerns, CEI is striving to tailor each workshop to be the most use for the local stakeholders. But to accomplish this we need your help to identify what information is of interest to you.

If you wish to help organize the workshop in your area, have a suggestion for the website, or simply would like more information about the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative please contact John Terninko, 585-262-2870 or terninko@frontiernet.net.





Environmental Activism

Federal Funding for Great Lakes

Bills have been introduced into both the Senate and House of Representatives to fund cleanup of contamination, wetlands restoration, and invasive species control, and comprehensive planning for the Great Lakes. The Senate bill would authorize \$6 billion over 10 years and is co-sponsored by New York Senators Schumer and Clinton. The House bill, introduced by Rep. Tom Reynolds, would provide \$4 billion over 5 years.

Genesee Land Trust To Create Urban Recreation Trail

With grants from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and the City of Rochester, the Genesee Land Trust has begun a collaborative project with City neighborhood associations and local residents to turn an abandoned rail bed in the City into the Butterhold-Seneca Park Trail stretching from the Genesee River to Seneca Park. The Eastman Kodak Co. has announced a \$150,000 commitment with the Nature Conservancy toward trail construction costs. *Source: Genesee Land Trust*

Comprehensive Brownfields Cleanup Program Expected From New York State

A comprehensive brownfields cleanup program that refinances the state Superfund, incorporates and preserves New York's oil spill program and launches a new plan to clean up groundwater contamination passed the State Assembly in June, with the Governor indicating his support. The Senate, when it reconvenes this fall, is expected to pass its version of the bill. The plan calls for spending \$120 million annually for remediation of contaminated sites; sets the highest feasible cleanup levels for brownfields ever mandated in a state program, and funds a program for inner-city communities to determine what happens to rehabilitated urban properties. *Source: Environmental Advocates of NY.*

Environmental Protection Fund at \$125 Million

The New York State Environmental Protection Fund was fully funded this year at \$125 million. The Fund supports land conservation and pollution prevention projects.

Adirondack High Peaks Gateway to be Forever Wild

Under a landmark agreement with N.L. Industries, the Open Space Institute will acquire nearly 10,000 acres of lands known as the Tahawus Tract, most of which will be added to the Adirondack Park High Peaks Wilderness Area. About 3000 acres of the Tract will be retained as "working forest." Another 450 acres will be set aside as an historic district surrounding the ghost town of Adirondack in the Town of Newcomb.

RG&E To Sell Wind Power

RG&E customers will soon be able to buy wind power. The wind power is expected to cost about 2.5 cents more per kilowatt hour for residential customers. A 100-kilowatt hour block of wind power every month for one year is equivalent to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by planting 125 trees or not driving 2000 miles.

Falcons at Kodak Tower

The five peregrine falcons recently hatched from the Kodak Office tower can now be viewed from the pedestrian bridge at High Falls. They can be seen best while the parents continue to leave food for them on the Kodak tower. Eventually they will stray farther and farther from their home base. *Source: City Newspaper*

Personal Watercraft Rules Adopted

The New York State Environmental Board has approved regulations adopting California's emission standards for personal watercraft. Beginning with the 2006 model year, new watercraft engines must produce successively lower emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. *See DEC website, www.dec.state.ny.us.*

Prattsburgh Residents Urge Moratorium on Wind Power

Residents of Prattsburgh in Steuben County have raised questions about plans for wind farms in the area. Two rival companies have proposed wind farms including about 100 wind turbines on 300 acres. Some signers of the petitions favor the wind farms; some are opposed; some just have a lot of questions. The Town does not have planning or zoning boards and the Town board neither endorses nor opposes the wind farms.

Regional Air Emissions Plan Supported By Northeast States

Nine Northeast states will join New York in a regional effort to reduce air pollution from power plants. In April New York Governor Pataki asked 10 Governors to join in a regional plan to slow global warming. Under the proposed cap-and-trade program, each state will determine the maximum level of carbon dioxide that can be emitted by power producers. Power plants that exceed the limit would buy pollution allowances from plants that produce less than the limit. The states that have joined the effort are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. The states will hold their first meeting in September. *Source: Rochester Democrat&Chronicle*

Hanna To Lead Region 8 DEC Office

Monroe County Legislator Sean Hanna has been named by Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty to head the Region 8 office in Avon. Since 1997, Hanna has been a New York representative on the Great Lakes Commission and he has served for the past three years on the Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board. A graduate of Boston College and of the Wake Forest University School of Law, he served as an assistant Monroe County district attorney prior to his service on the County Legislature. Hanna is a resident of Webster.

Kodak Gives \$500,000 To Preserve Land

The Nature Conservancy's Central & Western New York Chapter has received a \$500,000 gift from the Eastman Kodak Co. to help with a number of conservation projects, including the purchase of land near Rochester's water supply. Kodak's gift was the company's largest local gift for conservation purposes. \$250,000 will help pay for the Nature Conservancy's recent acquisition of the Eagle Crest property and other sensitive lands in the Hemlock and Canadice lakes watershed -- the source of drinking water for Rochester residents and other upstate communities.

Source: Rochester Democrat&Chronicle



Rochester Committee for Scientific Information Releases Watershed Video

The video, titled *Canandaigua Lake: Protecting our Vital Resource*, is an educational video/DVD funded through the RCSI and produced by Rose Films, Inc.

Canandaigua Lake, in upstate New York, is an invaluable resource to both residents and visitors, providing drinking water to over 50,000 people, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in tourism and recreation, and influencing a tax base valued at over 750 million dollars. The water quality issues that are presently affecting Canandaigua Lake are

the same problems that the rest of the Finger Lakes watersheds are currently facing or will be facing in the not too distant future.

This video tells the story of the important role the lake plays as a drinking water supply for the surrounding communities, the pressures it is currently facing, and the excellent work that has been done to raise awareness regarding protection of this important resource.

Another purpose of this video is to educate the citizens in the Canandaigua Lake watershed on steps that they and their neighbors can take as individuals to maintain the quality of their drinking water. The town of Canandaigua has experienced a huge surge in economic development over the past 10-15 years, as well as an explosion in the number of seasonal recreational users. Much of this

growth has been fueled by Rochester area residents. As the widening of Route 332 is now complete, this trend will accelerate. It is important to educate this influx of new residents, as well as the long-time watershed-residents, to water quality preservation issues.

We believe you will find the Canandaigua Lake story an interesting and educational example of how homeowners, farmers, and municipalities can work together to preserve the water quality of this most important natural resource for future generations in any watershed.

This video is appropriate for community and environmental organizations, as well as both high school and college level classes. It includes information and educational materials to assist with further discussion and individual or group action. (Funding for this production came from: RCSI, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, the NY Dept. of State, and AJB, longtime friend of the lake.)

For more information on RCSI or this video, please visit <http://www.rcsiweb.org>



Announcements

CEI 2002 Annual Report

The 2002 Annual Report of the Center for Environmental Information is now available. If you would like a copy, please contact the CEI office.

WEC Annual Coastal Clean Up Event along the Genesee River and Lake Ontario

Saturday September 20, 2003. Great Family Event sponsored by the Water Education Collaborative! Join over 300 volunteers in an effort to clean up the shorelines of the Genesee River and Lake Ontario. Lunch and all supplies are included---games, prizes and raffles are also a part of this great day! Event is from 9:00 a.m. until noon. For additional information or to register: Contact Noreen Mazurowski at (585) 271-4552 x. 324, or register on-line at www.thewec.org.

Year 2003 Membership

Don't miss out on environmental information that affects you! Keep informed. Support CEI's free public information services.

Make checks payable to Center for Environmental Information. Send with response form to CEI, 55 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14604.

Yes, please count me in as a CEI member in 2003. Enroll me as:

- \$25 Basic \$50 Family/Sustaining \$100 Maple Society
- \$200 and above, Oak Society \$_____ Other

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



Harbec Plastics – The Next RGBN Event Sustainable Business in Practice

Harbec Plastics is Rochester’s shining example of sustainable business in practice. Through the vision and leadership of Bob Bechtold, the company chairman and founder, Harbec has successfully integrated environmental considerations into its business decisions and not only has demonstrable associated cost savings, but has improved product quality.

Here are some examples of Harbec’s environmental choices:

- Electricity production - the use of alternative energy sources
- Selection of injection molding machines – low energy use
- Waste production – eliminated virtually all production waste
- Choice of company vehicles – hybrid cars
- Warehouse design - LEED principles

....the list goes on.

This field trip will comprise a tour of the energy generation facility and a presentation by Bob Bechtold on the environmental aspects of his business.

The field trip is Tuesday, August 19th, only open to RGBN members. For information on membership contact CEI.



Bob Bechtold next to the Harbec windmill. He is the owner of Harbec Plastics and a leader in green business practices.

Dr. Herman Forest, retired professor of biology at Geneseo and long-time environmental advocate, died July 5, 2003 in Tennessee. Dr. Forest’s work focused on the ecology of the Finger Lakes. He was very active in the Rochester Committee for Scientific Information, writing or editing about 100 bulletins on various environmental issues between 1967 and 1992, including strong safety measures for nuclear power plants, elimination of phosphates from soaps and detergents and freshwater lake pollution.

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