



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, Inc.

*Post Office Box 181
Scottsville, New York, 14546*

WWW.OATKA.ORG

Message From the Chairman

Richard VenVertloh

GREAT NEWS TO REPORT – THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WATERSHED PLAN FOR OATKA CREEK HAS BEGUN! The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) in association with multiple stakeholders and partners is moving forward with the development of a watershed management plan document. It is being funded by an environmental protection fund grant from the Department of State and covers the Black and Oatka Creek watersheds. A significant benefit of having a watershed plan is the ability of each community to apply for grant monies that will enable identified projects to be implemented. We are confident the watershed plan, once completed, will be an excellent “roadmap” to help municipalities protect this valuable resource.

As part of the watershed planning process, the Oatka Creek Watershed Committee is conducting an introductory outreach program to towns and villages. We have developed a short PowerPoint presentation that will serve as an introduction to the planning process. One of the goals of this outreach program is to get people excited about the Creek and thinking about watershed issues. Over the next year, there will be other opportunities for stakeholders to provide input. Dave Zorn and his staff from the G/FLRPC will be soliciting comment and input at various stages during the process. We hope that you will join us in working with the Genesee /Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council to develop a plan that is responsive to the particular needs of your community and will help to preserve water quality for future generations.

Lastly, we appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to preserve our creek. Thank you !

Rick

Outreach Program Schedule

WE ARE TAKING OUR MESSAGE OUT ON THE ROAD! The Oatka Creek Watershed Committee is planning to attend town and village board meetings to present a short 12 minute PowerPoint presentation on watershed planning. Our schedule for these meetings is as follows:

- Town of Warsaw, August 9, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Gainesville, August 9, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Village of Leroy, August 25, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Leroy, August 26, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Middlebury, September 8, 2010, 8:00 PM
- Town of Pavilion, September 9, 2010, 7:30 PM
- Town of Bethany, September 13, 2010, 7:30 PM
- Town of Stafford, September 13, 2010, 7:30 PM
- Town of Covington, September 14, 2010, 7:30 PM
- Village of Warsaw, September 20, 2010, 7:30 PM
- Village of Caledonia, October 5, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Wheatland, October 7, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Wethersfield, October 11, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Village of Scottsville, October 12, 2010, 6:30 PM
- Town of Perry, October 13, 2010, 7:15 PM
- Town of Caledonia, October 14, 2010, 7:00 PM
- Town of Orangeville, November 4, 2010, 6:00PM
- Village of Wyoming, November 9, 2010, 7:00 PM

Watershed Symposium Black Creek & Oatka Creek

Thursday, October 28, 2010
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A stream's watershed consists of all the land that drains to that stream. The Black and Oatka Creek watersheds incorporate all or parts of thirty-one towns and villages in Orleans, Monroe, Genesee, Wyoming and Livingston Counties. The Black Creek Watershed Coalition and Oatka Creek Watershed Committee consist of volunteers who have worked together to write "State of the Basin" reports, create watershed map guides, repair eroding stream banks, and to reach out to their municipal board members and neighbors.

This Symposium is a "kick off" to a watershed planning process for each watershed. The Watershed

Plans will be designed to protect the water quality of Black and Oatka Creeks and to address flooding issues. The Symposium's agenda is designed to introduce the concept and benefits of watershed planning and to share information about the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds. Speakers will present information on trout fishing, the Bergen Swamp, stream bank restoration, the Agricultural Environmental Management Program and a grant from the New York State Department of State Environmental Protection Fund to create a watershed plan for each watershed.

Who should attend?

Residents, farmers, environmentalists, conservationists, municipal and agency officials and staff and other citizens concerned with the water quality and flooding issues in the Black Creek and Oatka Creek watersheds.

Cost?

The symposium – including dinner -- is free of charge. It is made possible by a grant from the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

Location?

Woodside Lodge, Black Creek Park, Town of Chili, Monroe County, New York

Need more information?

Rochelle Bell, rbell@monroecounty.org, 753-2034
George Squires, george.squires@ny.nacdn.net, 343-2362
Rick VenVertloh, rvenvertloh@labellapc.com, 703-8933

**Oatka Creek Cleanup
September 25, 2010
Oatka Creek Park, Union Street, 9 AM to 1 PM**

This year we have scheduled another cleanup at Oatka Creek Park in Wheatland for Saturday September 25th from 9:00-1:00. We will meet at the main lodge in the park. Please join us in our effort to preserve Oatka's water quality and unique wildlife habitat. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty. If you have waders or hip boots, bring them along. Some shoreline areas may be very weedy so long sleeves and pants will offer more protection. For more information contact Maureen Leupold at: maleupold@genesee.edu or 585-343-0055 x 6394.

This activity is scheduled as part of the International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the American Littoral Society (ALS) and the Ocean Conservancy. The Coastal Cleanup is a worldwide event in which over 100 countries and almost all of the United States participate.