

Fall 2009

SOS Newsletter

Photo by Wolfgang Tinz

*Oh, the Beauty of
belonging to SOS!*



President's Report

Dear Members and Friends:

Over the past twelve months we have been witness to and experienced some significant and dramatic changes with our economy and the way we now look at plans for the people and



Sodus Bay.

All of the events mentioned are made possible by the SOS presence in our area. This presence is supported and reinforced by your membership and SOS's ability to represent such a large number of members

organizations we serve and protect. Recent changes with corporations like GM, Shearson, Bear Sterns and many others make us realize how little we know about how fragile organizations become when they are allowed to be managed by a small number of individuals while most of the stakeholders sit back and assume everything is going well.

With this said, I can assure you SOS continues to focus on the best interests of Sodus Bay while trying to seek as many concerns from our membership as possible. Many of you may think our organization is a weed harvesting effort and that is all we work on. I know SOS is best known for our efforts working with Wayne County Soil & Water in order to facilitate the most effective and efficient weed harvesting plan possible.

However, I am not sure how many of our members and other members of the community realize the many other areas SOS participates in. Our organization has been instrumental in obtaining grants for Sodus Bay, creating awareness and support for the annual and global lake shore clean up event held each September, working with the other WC bays, local towns and county governments for the purposes of municipal sewers around the bays, working with our local, state and federal officials to maintain their awareness and need for their financial support of programs for

when presenting our positions to those we wish to inform and educate.

You may be asking yourself the question as to what will SOS do for us tomorrow? The answer is whatever is necessary and reasonable to protect and preserve Sodus Bay. We can say this because we are a seasoned and experienced organization that stands ready and willing to tackle the next big or small concern facing Sodus Bay. Unfortunately, like the companies mentioned in my opening comments, they too were strong at one time. The bottom line is organizations can only stay strong if they have the involvement of skilled and caring individuals.

SOS appreciates your financial support and our organization enjoys the benefit of knowing you are a member. Please consider taking a greater role in your support. SOS is only as strong as the people who represent the organization. Please don't assume everything will continue to move forward and Sodus Bay will be protected without your personal involvement. Contact a board member today and determine if you would like to be involved in the future development of our organization.

Thank you for considering the next step of membership and for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Chuck Frederick

Features of interest

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SCS Students water research team Pg. 6

2010 Water Chestnut Harvest Pg. 7

SOS Membership Update

by Mark Tyman

SOS is finishing the 2009 summer season with an impressive membership base. We are 500 members strong (498 is the actual count but we'll indulge in a bit of rounding). Started as a grass roots effort by a few concerned bay residents just ten years ago, SOS has grown to its current size and stature because of the commitment and passion of its volunteer directors.

The founding members of SOS had one concern and that was weeds and the management of those weeds. Over the last decade SOS has continued to keep its focus on weed management while at the same time broadening its scope to include all water quality issues that impact Sodus Bay. Because of our growing membership base and the increased presence it has given to our cause, SOS can now partner with local, state and federal agencies as we pursue our goal of enhancing and preserving the water quality of Sodus Bay.

SOS has a working relationship with the county agency, Wayne County Soil & Water Department, that oversees the weed harvesting

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2010 Water Chestnut Harvest .. What's Next?

by Carolyn Jaeger

SOS volunteers have concentrated their efforts for water chestnut harvesting on Second Creek for the last five years. Hand harvesting along with two years of limited chemical applications have made a major dent in the number of plants at the mouth of Second Creek. While the water chestnuts have significantly dwindled, so have the number of volunteers doing the grunt work.

The SOS board has received communications from residents who wonder why we continue to concentrate on Second Creek and not on other areas with a larger

infestation. We also have correspondence from others who are concerned with the number of plants that remain upstream in Second Creek. Regardless of where it is located, this invasive plant is a threat to the Bay.

Obviously with the limited resources we have for hand harvesting, not all requests can be met. Currently we are in contact with Wayne County Soil and Water to develop a plan that will maximize the impact of our small number of volunteers on the invasive water chestnut population. When we have solidified our plans for next year, we will communicate with

you via e-mail so be sure to include your e-mail address when you renew your 2010 SOS membership.



SOS membership update

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program. We also have a long history of cooperation with state Senator Nozzolio and Representative Oaks, both have been very supportive of our efforts and have been able to secure funding for weed harvesting projects. On the federal level SOS has made itself known to Congressman Maffei and Senator Schumer, both whom have promised support for our mission of preserving the water quality of Sodus Bay.



All of this is possible because of a strong membership base.

As the important work that SOS does becomes well known we hope to grow our membership. More voices mean more visibility as we strive to raise our

concerns. Please encourage friends and neighbors, or anyone else who enjoys the bay, to consider joining SOS, our successful projects benefit everyone.

As we enter 2010 we will be making a minor change in our annual

membership drive. In the past a membership renewal letter was mailed in January followed by a letter in May for all the snow birds who may not have received the first letter. In order to conserve postage and paper one membership renewal letter will be mailed in May of 2010. Please consider joining us again in 2010, SOS values every member and strives to serve our membership through visible and positive programs.

The SOS Board of Directors wishes ev-

eryone a safe and happy winter season, whether you are heading for a warm climate or enjoying the beauty of Sodus Bay during the off season. See you in the spring!

Great turn out for the Annual SOS Dinner!

From Sun & Record - September 17, 2009

It was a splendid turnout at the Annual SOS (Save Our Sodus) Dinner on Saturday, September 12. Guests enjoyed a delicious clam bake including chicken, mashed potatoes, fresh green salads and corn on the cob prepared by the staff at Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club.

Prior to the meal, the group heard from SOS President Chuck Frederick who repeatedly praised the members for their dedication to the preservation and maintenance of Sodus Bay.

U.S. Congressman Daniel Maffei and N.Y.S. Assemblyman Robert Oaks reiterated the fact that the group has been instrumental in the care and upkeep of Sodus Bay.

Guest speaker, Henry Kelsey, Director of Wayne County Soil &

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Susie Earl, Chuck Frederick, Carolyn Jaeger, Paige Stanton, Mark Tyman, Dennis Grandjean, Donna Chittenden, Mike Sullivan, Rosemary Thomas. Absent: Fred Lindenhovius.

Sodus Bay Junior Sailing Association

thanks Save Our Sodus for their efforts to promote & protect our Bay.



For over 50 years SBJSA has been helping kids to fall in love with the bay and teaching them to be good stewards of this natural treasure.



Camp starts June 28, 2010 with flexible learn-to-sail and racing programs for kids 8 to 18. Check us out at www.SBJSA.org



Save These Dates in 2010

Calendar of Events

June 19, 2010:
SOS Annual Meeting

9 a.m. SP Village Hall

July 10, 2010:
Water Chestnut Harvest

(Volunteers needed)
 Location TBA

Sept. 11, 2010:
Annual SOS Clambake

Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club

Sept. 18, 2010:
International Shoreline Cleanup

(Volunteers needed)
 8:30 a.m. Wayne County Beach Parke in Sodus Point

Annual SOS Dinner!

From page 4

Conservation explained that SOS helps alert their agency to problem situations in the bay so that they can react accordingly. Kelsey was particularly happy with the groups effort to obtain funds for a new weed harvester this year. The old one was a 1988 model. Former Congressman Jim Walsh and Senator Mike Nozzolio assisted the group in making the weed harvester purchase possible.



Pictured (l - r) Lucinda Collier, John Edinger, Linda Edinger and Abby Maffei.



Pictured (l - r) Rosemary Thomas, Abby Maffei, Dan Maffei, Suzie Earl and Hope Fagan.

SCS students form water research team

By Ellen Floyd

Fourteen Sodus High School students have created an environmental study team. This team will investigate local water quality issues. The students are designing and conducting their own investigation into local water quality, with special attention to pollution and invasive species. The students have selected five watershed sites to visit and collect water quality data from. These sites include Sodus Point, local marinas, Zurich Bog, Huckleberry Swamp and some local agricultural ponds. There will soon be a blog up and running to describe their investigation and their findings. Starting on October 17th you can follow their work at: www.getrealscience.com/le07lloyd4. The team is interested in gaining involvement from the community, so if you would like to join us on a data collection trip or for our analysis, please contact Ellen Lloyd via e-mail at elloyd@soduscsd.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

- SOS contributed \$5,000 in seed money toward the development of the Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan

- SOS contributed \$1,000 to initiate the development of the Great Sodus Bay Watershed Management Plan.

SOS Mission: To improve, protect and preserve the quality of water in the Sodus Bay Watershed



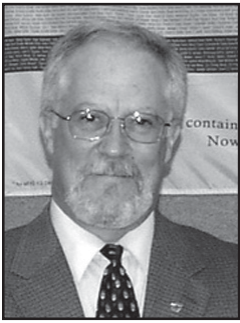
Serving Save Our Sodus SOS Board of Directors June 2009

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The Latest on Water Chestnuts

From Steve LeRoy

In many of our newsletters we have kept our members aware of the issue of the invasive water chestnuts and the great work that has been done by SOS working with the DEC to eradicate water chestnuts in many areas of Sodus Bay. While those efforts have been successful, the threat of water chestnuts in other areas still exist. In a recent discussion with Town of Sodus Supervisor, Steve LeRoy,

he brought to our attention a huge issue concerning water chestnuts:

A local resident who had been walking the lakeshore by the mouth of Maxwell Creek called Steve to say that she witnessed a kayaker trying to paddle through a weed bed. The weeds were extremely dense and stretched completely across the estuary just inside the mouth of the Maxwell Creek. Steve then called Henry Kelsey and alerted him to the problem.

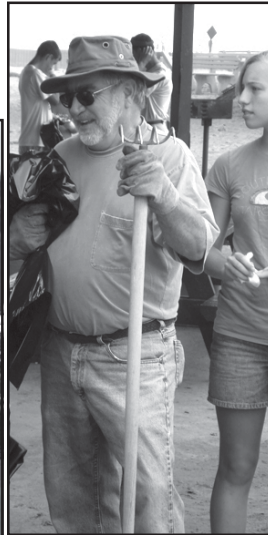
Henry then investigated the issue and stated that Maxwell

Creek bay is completely choked off with water chestnuts! This explosion of water chestnuts has happened in the last year.

At the present time Henry and Scott DeRue will work out a plan of attack and Steve (who is on the Water Quality Coordinating Committee) will take a personal interest in the Soil & Water District's functions. "This area is going to be particularly tough since we're quite limited as to what type of equipment we can get to the location" said Steve.

Stay tuned!

Some of Our Special Friends



DID YOU KNOW?

- In May 2006 SOS received the U S Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Award

- SOS has been able to raise funds to help purchase several weed harvesters that are now in operation on Sodus Bay

- In August 2009 SOS board members, Wayne County Soil & Water employees and the Army Corps of Engineers spent a day on Sodus Bay to check out invasive weeds



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Join SOS

SOS Mission: To improve, protect and preserve the
quality of water in the Sodus Bay Watershed

----- (Please Cut here and mail) -----

I/we value SOS programs and projects and want to keep Sodus Bay clean for our own and future generations. Here's my tax-deductible contribution to help in this effort. If I have not yet paid my dues, please apply this contribution to that.

\$25 (Household Membership) _____ \$50 or more (additional donation) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail address: _____

Please make **checks payable to SOS** and send to PO Box 424, Alton, New York 14413