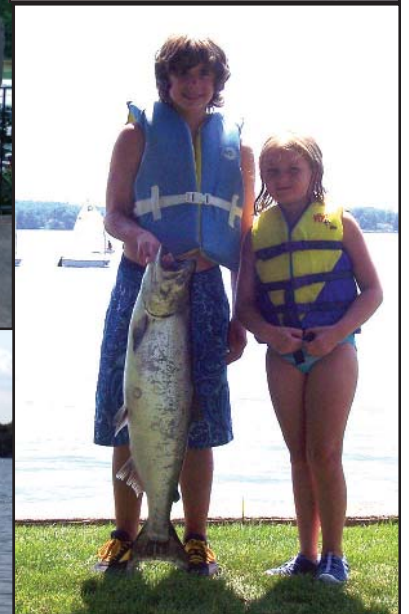
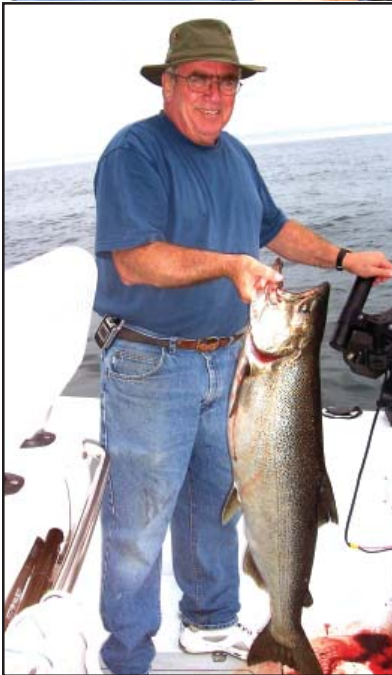


Summer 2009

SOS Newsletter

Photo by Wolfgang Tinz

What fun we have as members of SOS!





President's Report

Dear Members - Past, Present and Future:

Save Our Sodus, Inc. Board of Directors to address the myriad of issues threatening the water quality of Sodus Bay.

(SOS): Improving, Protecting & Preserving the water quality in the Great Sodus Bay watershed. I can assure you 2008 was an exciting and challenging year for SOS. In addition to our regular events, we were asked to host a visit from US Senator Chuck Schumer at the Sodus Bay Yacht Club. Your Board of Directors have been and continue to be active in pursuing new initiatives for SOS, including better ways and methods to keep you informed.

Sodus Bay watershed.

I can not say it enough or as often as I would like, but on behalf of the SOS Board I want to thank you for supporting our organization and your individual efforts in serving Sodus Bay. Your membership is vital to our organization. In addition, your financial contributions and/or personal commitment of service give SOS the support necessary for your

One of our most recent successes involve the chemical and hand harvesting of Water Chestnuts at Second Creek. As a result of resources

Continues page 6

Features of interest

Status of Weed Harvesting Pg. 2

Update Four Bay Sanitary Feasibility Study Pg. 3

Town of Sodus Supervisor Letter Pg. 4

Letter from Huron Town SupervisorPg. 5

Water Chestnuts Beware Pg. 7

SOS Would Like Your Feedback



From Rosemary Thomas

A Letter from the Editor:

The Board of Directors of SOS is extremely interested in your feedback on issues concerning our beautiful Sodus Bay. As noted in this newsletter, many things have been accomplished and many more are works in progress.

However, in order to be a proactive organization we want to begin looking at what else we can accomplish for our Bay. If you have an issue or a concern that you feel should become a priority for SOS the organization and the Board of Directors, please let us know.

The Board is the voice for all our members and we truly would like membership input on issues that are of concern. You may email your input to: rosebillthomas@yahoo.com or contact any of the SOS Board of Directors.

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

Status of County weed harvesting

WC Soil & Water Conservation

District Report: By Henry Kelsey, District Manager, Wayne County SWCD

As previously noted (i.e. Press Release, Bay Association Letters), the Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District will continue to administer the Aquatic Vegetation Control program on the County's Embayments. The District's renewed commitment to the program has come with the addition of new monies from the 3 towns the bays are located in and from the County itself. The District has made revisions to its Mechanical Aquatic Vegetation Control Program Policy which continues to embrace the objective of providing the best service we are a capable of. With grant monies secured by Senator Nozzolio and funding from the County's Board of Supervisors, we were able to purchase a new, state of the art Mechanical Harvester and retrofit the cutting heads on the two newer model harvesters. This update will maximize the operating time of the machines by eliminating down time for repairs previously experienced, and thus, improve the efficiency of the program.

The Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District has also hired a water quality technician to oversee day-to-day water quality activities. His responsibilities will include

supervision of aquatic vegetation control program, in-bay water sampling, tributary water sampling and analysis, and emerging stormwater and onsite wastewater programs.

Tentative harvesting schedules for all the Wayne County Embayments can be viewed online at the Wayne County SWCD website.

The SWCD will continue to monitor the water quality of the bays and apply the results to a Trophic State Index to tract the trends in water quality.

Our department requests you please use your representative bay association to report any concerns dealing with the WC SWCD.





Water Chestnuts Beware!

by Carolyn Jaeger

pulled them out by the ton and sent them to the Soil and Water's weed harvester hoosegow. These varmints spread faster than bunnies. Unlike bunnies, SOS pickers are their only known predator.

Our hard work has made life hard for the water chestnuts on Second Creek, but the job still isn't done. We pluck out one generation only to have their kin and relations return with a vengeance. We need your help with our ongoing mission to eliminate water chestnuts from these here precious waters.

You may have seen posse members in the past—they are wet, muddy and carry a wide grin. You

too can have the look of a 1950's B-movie lagoon monster and wear the smile of the righteous. Join us, we need you!!!

Go to your calendar right now and block out the morning of Saturday, July 11. The dedicated, who fear no mud, will gather for vittles—(donuts and coffee) at 8:30 at the Sodus Bay Yacht Club. Our posse will have completed its task and headed to the showers by noon. Got questions, want to volunteer or just chat about water chestnuts?? Call Carolyn Jaeger at 585 461 1076 (crjaegerny@yahoo.com).

Gather the posse, saddle up the small boats, canoes and kayaks!! It's that time of year to head out and corral those ornery water chestnuts. These critters are one and the same invasive water plant that choked Second Creek before the committed SOSers

BEACH CLEAN UP THIS FALL

by Mark Tyman

As we enjoy our brief but beautiful summer on Sodus Bay we may not want to think about September. But September is the month of the International Coastal Cleanup. As the name implies, it is a global effort to clean waterways and raise awareness of the importance of taking care of our aquatic resources for future generations to enjoy. This effort had a humble beginning on a beach in Texas 23 years ago and now enjoys the participation of thousands of people around the world. Our local cleanup will be Saturday, September 19th.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who participate every year but the bay has an extensive shoreline and we are always looking for more help, especially on the east side of the bay. There is an impressive group, headed up by Lorraine Lietz, who clean the Leroy Island Bridge every year. Lorraine and her friends do an incredible job removing large amounts of debris left behind by the fishermen who



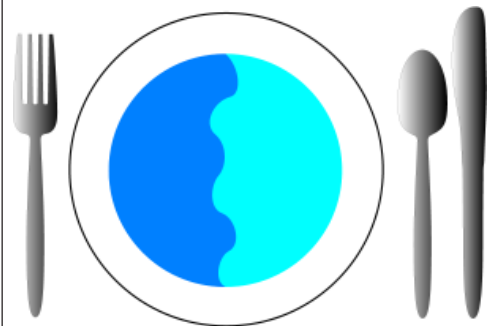
use the bridge during the summer months. I wish I could clone Lorraine and her friends, just for that one day. But, since that is not going to happen, I will extend an invitation to everyone reading this article to get involved. We would like to form groups to clean Crescent Beach, the Bay Bridge area at the southern end of the bay and around the marinas on the east side.

You can contact me at marktyman@gmail.com for more information.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the past and we will look forward to seeing you again in September. Hope you have a great summer.

Join Us For the SOS Dinner

by Donna Chittenden



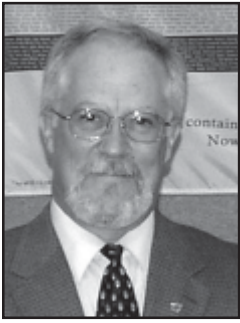
SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 for another fun evening with SOS members and friends. Last year's more casual atmosphere was very successful and we will be continuing that arrangement this year.

The Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club is a truly beautiful location for our event and we will look forward to seeing you there.

Ask a friend to join you this year. Any questions, give me a call. 483-6554

Donna Chittenden

A letter from Town of Sodus Supervisor By Steve LeRoy



I'm happy to say that our weed harvesters are back to work this year with the addition of a brand new machine! Senator

Nozzolio made a generous contribution of \$50,000.00 toward the purchase of the harvester in 2006, adding a second award of \$25,000.00 in 2007. I presented a resolution to the Board of Supervisors asking that the County appropriate \$30,000.00 toward the machine as well, thus insuring that we had enough funding in place to order the new harvester for the '09 season. The resolution passed, the machine was ordered and we now have a "state of the art" addition to our fleet. The Soil & Water Conservation District also chipped in funding to allow for a new trailer and cutting heads.

I want to thank the Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors for agreeing to administer the program once again. With Henry Kelsey as District Manager and Scott DeRue in charge of water quality issues, I'm confident that the program is in good hands. The Towns of Sodus, Wolcott and Huron have all contributed financial support to the program for the new season and the County Board of Supervisors has committed \$44,100.00 in funding for '09 operations. Combined with the FL-LOWPA money we expect to get this year, the program has more financial backing than ever before.

Although I certainly don't spend as much time on the lake or bay as I used to, I do stay in

touch with the charter fishing fleet that I was once a part of. By all accounts, the trout and salmon fishing this season has been outstanding off the Sodus Bay area. Limit catches made up of Brown Trout, Coho Salmon and even Atlantic Salmon were very common through the early spring and from what I understand, the Steelhead season has been phenomenal! Perch fishing was super through the ice and I'm told that great catches are still being had on both the lake and bay. Fishermen just love to brag about "the big one" when they get home. All the talk and good press will certainly promote tourism to the Sodus Bay area. Tourists have a positive impact on our economy and the assurance of increased tourism is one of the main cards we play when seeking funding for various projects relative to Sodus Bay.

I have no definitive news on the lake level issue; however in my opinion... we'll accept status quo. Last year I spoke in Alexandria Bay and in Oswego before the International Joint Commission as an advocate for "maintaining current lake levels". If necessary I will continue to fight the fight against the proposed B+ scenario, which would most assuredly devastate the south shore of Lake Ontario, and wipe out 50 years of development on Sodus Bay. Our lake and bays, and the wildlife that depends on this fresh water body for their existence, have evolved on our current lake levels. I see no logic whatsoever in risking the destruction of multi-millions of dollars in personal property and the displacement of hundreds of families to create a better habitat for the muskrat (believe it or not, this "help the muskrat" argument was posed by one B+ advocate).

General questions related to Sodus Bay should be directed to

the appropriate agency. However, I would encourage the SOS membership to call my office anytime (315-483-4430) if I can address any specific concerns, to get my personal stand on an issue concerning Sodus Bay or to get an update on proceedings of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors that might affect the bay. Lake Ontario and its tributaries have been a huge part of my life. As always, I will continue to do my best to preserve and protect this tremendous resource.

Respectfully,
Steven LeRoy
Sodus Town Supervisor

Update on the Four Bay Sanitary Feasibility Study

From page 3

- He thought this project was well worthwhile and would explore ways of funding it but was not very hopeful of finding money until the economy turned around.

- The congressman wishes to remain informed of our progress. He recommended that we keep in contact through the staff person at his local office on the 2nd floor of the Newark Village Hall.

Your Board will continue to pursue this endeavor and keep you informed of its progress and potential impacts on our neighborhood.

SHOPA Board of Directors
Anthony Santelli, President
315 483 1172

Tom Jaeger, Vice President
585 461 1076

Bob DeRoller, Secretary
585 739 8747

Dennis Grandjean, Treasurer
315 483 9629

Pete Hibbard - 315 483 8511
Betty Ingerson - 315 483 1855
Carol LeFever - 315 483 2168
Sharon Maher - 315 483 6055
Ed Wheeler - 315 483 6240

Save These Dates in 2009

Calendar of Events

**July 11, 2009:
Water Chestnut Harvest
(Volunteers Needed)**

Sodus Bay Yacht Club

**Sept. 12, 2009:
Annual Fund Raising Event - Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club**

**Sept. 19, 2009:
International Coastal Clean Up Day - Sodus Point Beach**



To SOS Members, Friends and Constituents

From Laura Crane, Huron Town Supervisor

The weed harvesters are in the water. The Wayne County Soil and Water District is running the weed harvesting program with funding from Huron, Sodus, Wolcott and the County. The FL-FLOWPA monies have not yet been released so we do not know what cuts have been made. I would encourage you as an organization to lobby your State Representatives to continue to provide funds for weed harvesting and other improvements on our Bays.

We are continuing to inspect septic systems and have started with a new cycle of inspections. For those with failing septic systems we have a CDBG Grant that provides funds for new septic systems for people that meet the income eligibility requirements. SWCD also has funding available for septic systems.

The Leroy Island Bridge Project is complete. There was a very nice ribbon cutting ceremony on May 19th for the open-



ing of the new bridge.

Thank you all for the work you do to keep Sodus Bay BEAUTIFUL !!!

Please do not hesitate to call with request or concerns.

Laurie Crane
Town of Huron Supervisor

Now Is The Right Time...

SOS organized our annual beach and bay cleanup. With the help of many volunteers we were able to remove more than 600 lbs. of trash from water and shoreline. This effort is in cooperation with the International Coastal Cleanup which works on a global scale to preserve our aquatic resources.

SOS rolled out the findings of the Four Bay Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study. This study was conducted in 2007

from page 3

with the hope that all 4 Wayne County bays can someday be protected from poorly functioning septic systems. The study represents the first step in a huge endeavor. Long range goals are as important as short term solutions in preserving the bay.

So you get a sense of the scope of our work. We are an all volunteer group who must continuously look to the community at large for support. Please consider joining us with a paid membership. You will help support us in our effort to care for Sodus Bay and, as you can see, it is a pretty good value for your investment.

President's letter

from page 2

obtained by a grant and the private, not-for-profit organization should take over this project. The result of this process was the decision to maintain control of weed harvesting by our County Government.

I am happy to report the Wayne County Soil and Water Department (WC SWCD) continues to provide weed harvesting for the WC bays. I am confident we will experience a renewed spirit of cooperation between the bay organizations and WC SWCD. If you get the opportunity please introduce yourself to Henry Kelsey, District Manager, and Scott De Rue, Water Quality Technician in charge of weed harvesting.

Our organization exists to serve an important and local natural resource. The preservation of Sodus Bay extends many benefits to local property owners, business owners and anyone wishing to enjoy water related activities. SOS needs and wants your support. Your support can be in the form of your time commitment, financial contribution or simply keeping your area of Sodus Bay clean and safe. Please do as much as you can, as often as you can.

Your SOS Board of Directors is available to provide you with information about our organization. They are volunteers who donate their time to keep our organization strong and in touch with bay concerns. Feel free to contact them if you need any assistance or just to say thanks for their commitment.

I hope to see you at one or all of our events this year.

Sincerely,
Chuck Frederick

FACTOIDS

One acre of water chestnuts possesses enough reproductive capacity to cover 100 acres the following year. Chemical control of aquatic weeds is currently the most common form used.



Serving Save Our Sodus SOS Board of Directors June 2009

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Treasurer:	Fred Lindenhovius	Flindenhovius@rochester.rr.com 315-483-6077 (h) 585-455-2136 (c)

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Update on the Four Bay Sanitary Feasibility Study



On April 15, 2009, the *Shaker Heights Property Owners Association (SHOPA)* met with Representative Dan Maffei to familiarize

him with the *Four Bay Sanitary Feasibility Study*. A summary of that meeting was published in the *SHOPA's April newsletter*. SOS would like to thank *SHOPA* for allowing us to reprint that article and for their continued efforts on behalf of the Bay.

Feasibility Study Presented to Congressman Dan Maffei

Submitted by Tom Jaeger

The SHPOA Board of Directors continues to actively work to promote a sewer network for northern Wayne County and the four bays that drain into Lake Ontario. Toward that end, on April 15th SHPOA Board Members **Tony Santelli** and **Ed Wheeler** organized a presentation of the *Four Bay Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study*, developed by MRB Group Engineering of Rochester, to newly elected Congressional representative, Dan Maffei.

During the approximately hour-long session at the Town of Huron offices Marty Aman of WCWSA presented a summary of the *Four Bay Study*. He included maps and diagrams of the affected bays and towns and did an

excellent job of fielding questions from the audience and Mr. Maffei.

Congressman Maffei listened attentively, asked pointed questions and ended by discussing funding feasibility in light of the difficult current economic environment.

In a nut shell he said:

- Environmental issues, including clean water, sanitary sewers, controlling invasive weeds and maintaining the beauty and integrity of Lake Ontario are a priority for him.

- There are a number of similar and equally important projects in his district, but to our benefit, ours is one of a few that has conducted a feasibility study and is ready for the funding stage of development.

Continues on page 4



Now Is The Right Time...

By Mark Tyman

to become an SOS member. As we go through our busy daily lives we are increasingly encouraged to "go green" and reduce our carbon footprint. Have you ever wondered what that means, other than buying energy efficient light bulbs and consolidating trips in the car in order to save gas? There are many opportunities to conserve as a way to preserve the beautiful world we so often take for granted. There are also many opportunities to volunteer, get involved and be proactive in preserving the environment.

That is what we at SOS are all about and we invite you to join us in our effort to protect this incredible gem we know as Great Sodus Bay. The founders of SOS dedicated themselves to improving, protecting and preserving water quality in the Sodus Bay watershed. The current all vol-

unteer board of directors continues that mission to guarantee that the bay is accessible and enjoyable to all who live or visit around the bay.

A shortlist of our accomplishments in 2008 includes:

- A new era of cooperation with the Wayne County Soil and Water Department regarding the weed harvesting program. SOS will offer assistance and take direction from the S&W Dept. to make the harvesting program as successful and efficient as possible.

- Completion of a 3 year effort to eradicate water chestnuts from 2nd creek. SOS will continue to look for water chestnut colonies around the bay and work to remove them before they spread.

- SOS hosted an informational meeting with Senator Charles Schumer. Bay area residents were able to talk with Sen.

continues page 5



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SOS Newsletter - Summer 2009

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