



Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

Monthly Activities Report

June 2010

Investigations of Possible Violations

- Received report of possible Giant Hogweed in Town of Genoa. Fortunately, plant growing was Angelica, which is commonly mistaken for Giant Hogweed.
- Working with property owner in the Town of Owasco regarding debris in stream and roadside drainageway. Investigation of drainageway showed that debris was from garbage along the sides of the road. Investigation of stream is planned for early July.
- Received report of stream in the Town of Fleming having blue tint – investigation found that pond upstream (which outlets back into the stream) had blue dye placed in pond. Spoke with landowner and instructed to not use the dye in the pond and educated landowner on the use of barley bales as an option. Landowner purchased barley bales for algae control in the pond.
- Worked with Town of Owasco and SWCD's CPESC regarding concerns at development. One concern was with the inlet of a retention pond not functioning properly and the second concern was a property currently under construction not maintaining and incorporating sediment and erosion control practices. After speaking with the contractor, they are working on fixing the inlet of the retention pond and at the active construction site, had completed areas seeded and mulched and repaired silt fencing.
- Received report of land disturbing activity in or near a wetland in the Town of Owasco. Investigated and took GPS points of the extent of the disturbance. Working with the ACOE to determine if they will consider the disturbance to be a violation.
- Worked with Town of Owasco Highway Department to have a stormwater sewer cleaned due to excessive debris and yard waste covering the grate. Stormwater sewer outlets directly into Dutch Hollow Brook.
- Re-inspected property in the Town of Owasco that had a failing septic system in the fall and had made repairs since the failure. Inspection concluded that the septic system was still failing and the repairs done did not eliminate the problem. Sent information to the Cayuga County Health Department – violation notice has been sent requesting that a new septic system plan needs to be submitted and a new system design needs to be installed at the property.
- Located lakefront boathouse as listed rental property on Internet. According to Health Department records, there is no structure or septic system diagram. Health Department will be looking into the situation further.

Community Outreach

- Eco-Talk Article – Figures for the Owasco Lake Watershed
- Presented to the Town of Niles Town Board, Planning Board, and public about the Program
- Presented to IAGT's TWIST class about the Program. TWIST is for local school teachers to learn about GPS and GIS and how to integrate this into their classrooms.
- Attended American Farmland Trust's Steering Committee meeting looking at agriculture and agricultural practices within the watershed.

Other Tasks

- Water Samples were picked up and delivered to laboratory for analysis. SWCD's AmeriCorps staff will be continuing sample pick-up through the end of their term.
- Completed some algae sampling to determine species of algae that are found in the lake.
- Attended Lakefront Supervisors meeting – worked on revising the parameters for determining a formula to budget money for future water quality projects.
- Attended follow up meeting for the Conesus Lake Watershed Management Program visit
- Prepared materials for Lake Day on July 1

Upcoming Events

- Lake Day – July 1 (4 – 6:30)
- Water Sampling - July 6 and 20
- Lakefront Supervisors meeting – July 21