



What Happened to Preservation?

My dad used to say, "Nature takes care of the impacts humans impose on the environment." It's like saying, "Time heals all wounds."

Reading through the articles in this issue gives one a good understanding of the complexities involved in the cleanup of Onondaga Lake. How did this once booming vacation destination become a Superfund site? My dad's statement certainly doesn't ring true for Onondaga Lake.

Nature has been wrestling with the results of human interaction for ages. But I ask the question, "How did it ever get this bad?" Nature and time together cannot restore this lake. However, after much time and effort, significant progress has been made on the municipal side of things, utilizing the best technology we have to date. *Indeed*, terrific progress has been made on this front.

The industrial pollution is another, more complicated side of the story. I think about this from a moral position: In the late 1800s when the industrial waste stream to the lake really came into its nexus, did the parties responsible simply not understand the impact these chemicals would have? When the decision was first made to use the lake as a waste depository, was the rationale made that nature would simply take care of it? In the late 1800s there was no protection or preservation of this unique water body. Described by the Onondaga Indian Nation as a moccasin footprint, the lake is and was seen as a sacred place where the founding of the Iroquois confederacy took place on its shoreline.

For better or for worse, the people who live in central New York and the stakeholders involved in the lake cleanup share the responsibility of being stewards for lake restoration. These people have inherited a lake-full of bad decisions made by previous generations. The result of these bad decisions has culminated in a devastating lesson from which many of us have learned, and there is an obligation to future generations not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Onondaga Lake has been impaired by pollution beyond our comprehension. Perhaps we are evolving in our thinking: nature may absorb much of the impacts of human interference; however, it is mankind that needs to augment and take the lead in the preservation of the environment. It is our ethical legacy; it is what the members of this organization do best.



**Economic Development and Environmental
Responsibility Go Hand in Hand**

Recent NYWEA Board Action Items

- Resolution 2005-11**—Appointment of J. Kirk Rowland to Water Environment Federation House of Delegates
- Resolution 2005-12**—Authorization of Expenditure Out of Scholarship Account for Fund-Raising Boat Cruise
- Resolution 2005-13A**—Splitting of Safety Award into Two Awards:
 - (1) Wastewater Facilities Safety Award and
 - (2) Collection Systems Safety Award
- Resolution 2005-13**—Renaming of Wastewater Facilities Safety Award to Alfred J. Schmidt Wastewater Facilities Award
- Resolution 2005-14**—Uhl T. Mann Awards:

Louis Langone	0.05–0.5 mgd	Operations
Steve Giarrusso	0.6–1.0 mgd	Operations
David Krol	10.1–50.0 mgd	Operations
Lawrence Brincat	Over 50.0 mgd	Operations
Joseph Massaro	Over 50.0 mgd	Maintenance
- Resolution 2005-15**—William D. Hatfield Award—Ronald Wallace
- Resolution 2005-16**—Approval of \$1,500 Scholarships:
 - 1. Student Chapter Category
 - a. Eric Spargimino, Manhattan College
 - b. Elizabeth Urban, Clarkson University
 - 2. High School Category
 - a. Colleen Harren, Suffolk County
 - b. Kathleen Stutzman, Albany County
 - 3. Children of Members
 - a. Peter Michael McGroddy, Lower Hudson Chapter
 - b. Sean Matthew Neafsey, Metropolitan Chapter
- Resolution 2005-17**—Approval of \$10,000 Major Scholarship – Marissa Fawn Goldblatt, Long Island Chapter
- Resolution 2005-18**—Adoption of 2005–2006 Budget
- Resolution 2005-19**—Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers – Maureen Kozol, Silver
- Resolution 2005-20**—Modifications to Bylaws:
 - 1. Addition of Young Professional to the Board
 - 2. Combination of PWO and Affiliate Categories into One "Affiliate" Category for \$60 per Year
 - 3. Modification of the Chapter Rebate Program from \$1 per Member to an Incentive-Based Program
 - 4. Requirement That Committee Chairs Be Full WEF Members



Upcoming Meetings

Joint Tiffit Symposium (NYSAWWA/NYWEA)
November 15–16, 2005, Syracuse

78th Annual Meeting
February 5–8, 2006, New York City

Joint NYWEA/NEWEA 2006 Spring Technical Conference and Exhibition
June 4–7, 2006, Mystic, Connecticut