

# Save Hyde Lake Association

President Joyce Brunet, PO Box 245, Weedsport, NY 13166, [jschell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jschell@twcny.rr.com)  
Vice President Dorene McCann

Secretary Bruce Sharpe  
Treasurer Deborah McCloat

## Meeting

**Sunday, July 3, 2005**

**11:00 AM**

Wilson's Hyde Lake  
Campsite Pavilion

## Annual Dues

You may pay your dues at the meeting (\$20 per couple), send it directly to the treasurer, Debbie McCloat, or send it to: Joyce Brunet  
P.O. Box 245.  
Weedsport, NY 13166

## Our Website

Be sure to visit our newly created website frequently for new information and updates. Thank you to Janet Brunet for helping me to establish and maintain it.

[www.savehydellake.com](http://www.savehydellake.com)

## T-Shirts

We still have Hyde Lake t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats available. 100% of the sales will go to the treasury. They will be available at the meeting or you may contact Debbie McCloat or Joyce Brunet at [jschell@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jschell@twcny.rr.com).

## Septic Upgrade Grants Available Again

Again this summer, there are 10 grants available for the upgrade of septic systems. The grants are 25% of the cost up to \$1,000. Applications are being accepted between June 30 and August 31.

An inspection of your current system by our trained team needs to be made prior to the application. The grants are made available through the Jefferson County Water Quality Committee. Please contact Joyce Brunet or Dorene McCann for further information and an application.

## The Stream Restoration Project

On February 22, in subzero temperatures, the US Fish & Wildlife Service representative, Carl Schwartz and contractor Tim Sweeney of TMT Contractors, Gouverneur began the construction of our weir, the 90 ft dam-like structure that extends across the stream, and a cross vane of limestone slabs in the streambed. The project was completed in early March, just in time to contain the water from the spring ice melt that was leaking swiftly through the former dam. For more information about the stream restoration project and the current water level see the reverse side of this newsletter. Also, visit our website for photos of the work in progress and detailed information. Click on "Stream Restoration Project" and then "more photos" at the bottom of that page.

## Donations for Stream Restoration Project

Thank you to all of the property

owners and friends of Hyde Lake that donated to the stream restoration project. Your generosity is appreciated by all. If others would still like to donate, you still have time! You may send your contribution to our treasurer, Debbie McCloat or Joyce Brunet.

## A Special Thank You to Bob Funda & Steve Wilson

Thank you to these two property owners for participating in The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. The stream restoration project would not have been possible without their commitment to allow the use of their property at the south end of the lake. Their cooperation is truly appreciated as we will all benefit from it.

## Eagle Scout Erosion Control Project

Thank you to Jeremy Dollinger, Eagle Scout candidate, along with his fellow scouts and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 509 of Mattydale, for completing a stream erosion control project for us. On May 22 they traveled from Syracuse to plant over 1,000 willow, dogwood and button bush saplings along the stream banks. They also added clay soil beneath the rocks in front of the spillway. Jeremy is the grandson of Sally Brunet and the late Albert Brunet, charter members.

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## **Understanding the Current Water Level and the Stream Restoration Project**

When we look at the current water level of the lake it is obvious that it is at a lower level than most of us had anticipated. There are several reasons for this outcome that I hope will clarify any questions that you might have. Keep in mind that the water level is stabilized at a minimum level and should not drop any lower.

First of all, the water level is not lower due to any problems or malfunctions of the new stream system. The new system is functioning very well; however, the weir, or the dam-like structure, was constructed at a level that is approximately 1 foot lower than the top of the old “beaver dam”, which provided the higher water level that we have had in the past.

### **Why was the weir constructed at a lower level?**

Sound engineering practices required the structure to be anchored to strong, stable stream banks that would be most resistant to erosion coming from the force of the flow of water out of the lake. This location was selected because it is the section closest to the old “beaver dam” that is stable enough to support the construction. It was the highest elevation possible.

### **What does this difference in height mean?**

It means that our water level will most likely fluctuate within that 1 foot range depending on beaver activity and the amount of rainfall that we receive.

### **What is the other reason that the water level is lower?**

Think of the lake as a bowl with a warped rim; the highest spot on the rim is where the top of the old beaver dam is. Knowing that water seeks the path of least resistance, when the bowl is filled with water it will flow around the sides of the high spot. This is what has been happening to the old dam. Because the only material on the sides of the dam is loose and unstable bog it has eroded. Also, keep in mind that the old dam is just that, “old”- over 30 years old, and much of the original material has deteriorated.

This winter the beaver dam failed terribly; in February, water was flowing through on the Wilson side. We suspect that the leak is down below the current surface level of the water. This allowed the water to drain out until it was contained by the newly constructed weir. Just think, the way the old beaver dam was and is failing right now, without the new weir, we would be looking at a water level that would be 2-3 ft. lower than it is currently.

If the beaver decide to make repairs to the leak and maintain it then the water level will go up. Also, if and when it rains, the water level should rise again and then run out at a slower rate because we have attempted to block the leak in that area.

In time, soil and debris will deposit itself in the stream and it will fill in where erosion has occurred, hence, stream restoration. Until then, I hope everyone keeps in mind the deteriorating condition of the old beaver dam and is appreciative that the new structure is in place to ensure that the water level does not go any lower.