

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2/17/15

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Seneca Lake Academy – free, public event to explore natural and cultural history of Seneca Lake and its environs - Register by February 21

Montour Falls, NY

Saturday, February 28

Free classes 9am-5pm

Followed by 6pm community dinner with live music (Schuyler 4-H fundraiser) and free open-mic evening

Sponsored by Finger Lakes Institute, Finger Lakes Land Trust, Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, The Wetland Trust and WRFI Community Radio.

Parallel programming for younger children by Earth Arts Ithaca is currently full but you can still register through the website to get on the waiting list.

Come join us as we explore the natural and cultural history of Seneca Lake with all of our senses. This is a unique opportunity that is a must for anyone who cares about Seneca Lake and the Finger Lakes region. Register through the event website by Saturday, February 21.

There will be other surprises the day of the event. The Seneca Lake Academy is a celebration of our local region, its people, and the wild things that inspire us.

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

Welcome/Introduction/Surprise Guest?

9:00 – 9:45 am

Traces of Seneca, Cayuga and Earlier Cultures in the Finger Lakes

Jack Rossen – Ithaca College Archaeologist

9:45 -10:30 am

Stream Entomology 101: Bugs that Live in Seneca Streams and what they can tell us about Water Quality

Adrianna Hirtler – Bio-monitoring Coordinator for the Community Science Institute

Jim Murphy – Science Teacher, Watkins Glen Central School District

10:30 – 11:00 am

Diverse Temperate Forests of the Finger Lakes

Akiva Silver – nursery owner and local tree extraordinaire

11:00 – 11:45 am

Finger Lakes Geology 101 (***)*Note that this class will be held at a different location, 1/5 of a mile down the street – plan to walk there or drive if you need to. If you're a solid walker, it should take 5-10 minutes. Limited parking at the site.*

Don Duggan-Haas – Director of Teacher Programs at the Paleontological Research Institution and its Museum of the Earth & Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, NY

Craig Carlson – Earth Science Teacher, Dundee High School

12:00-12:45 pm

Lunch followed by Opportunity to spend a Few Minutes on Seneca Lake

12:45 – 2:15 pm

A lunch buffet (salad and pasta) will be prepared especially for Seneca Lake Academy participants by MuraBella's for anyone who would like to partake of it ((\$10/person plus tip – children under 13 half price). This will immediately follow the Geology talk at the same location.

After lunch (between 1:15 and 2:15) anyone choosing to do so has the opportunity to spend some time in the heated cabin of the *Seneca Legacy* at its dock, courtesy of Captain Bill's Seneca Lake Cruises. A great opportunity to possibly see some winter water fowl, feel the movement of the lake and experience its mood of the day. We will have paper and pencils there for anyone wanting to jot down some thoughts or sketch a picture.

Seneca Lake: Gateway to the Erie Canal

Gary Emerson – Author of *A Link in the Great Chain*, a 2005 book about the Chemung Canal

2:30 – 3:15 pm

Poetry of Seneca Lake

Peter Motzenbecker – Schuyler County Poet

3:15 – 3:30 pm

Seneca Lake Dynamics and Water Quality

John Halfman – Finger Lakes Institute and Hobart and William Smith Colleges

3:30 – 4:15 pm

Grapes and Wine on Seneca Lake: A History and Future

Jim Hazlitt – Former owner, operator of Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Phil Davis – Grape grower and co-owner of Damiani Wine Cellars

4:15 – 5:00 pm

Community Dinner (St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House, 108 S. Genesee St.)

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Tickets \$10 (\$5 for kids)

Fundraiser for Schuyler 4-H programming - Chili and Cornbread made with locally sourced ingredients. A great opportunity to get to know other Finger Lakes Academy students and teachers while enjoying a nice, warm meal and live music.

Open Mic Cabaret Evening (St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House, 108 S. Genesee St.)

Hosted by Andy Doyle

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Free and open to the public

Bring a story, song, poem, skit, dance, show-and-tell object, ...etc. related to your love of Seneca Lake and the Finger Lakes Region to share. Or just come to watch.

Children's Programming is currently full but you can visit our website for the schedule of children's sessions and register through the website to get on the waiting list.

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