

HERE IS CONTACT INFO
FOR A FEW ORGANIZATIONS THAT
ARE DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING,
APPRECIATING AND PROTECTING
SENECA LAKE AND ITS NATURAL AND
CULTURAL ENVIRONS

This list is in no way complete. These particular write-ups come from organizations that reached out to the Seneca Lake Academy and wanted its participants to learn more about what they do.



KESTREL HAVEN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

<http://www.hswlt.org/sanctuaries/kestrel-haven-wildlife>

Kestrel Haven is a pro bono private research facility and sanctuary in Burdett, NY that was established by Dr. John and Sue Gregoire in 1986. The Gregoire's have accomplished all of the field work in Queen Catharine Marsh and other areas of Schuyler County to allow for the county comprehensive plan environmental areas, the Important Bird Area, Bird Conservation Area and Critical Environmental Area designations within the county, as well as assisting the National Forest Service and the DEC in Schuyler field biology projects. Their sanctuary will be an asset in the county forever as it is perpetually protected through a conservation easement with the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust. That easement was the first of its kind in Schuyler. It is not open to the public and reserved for the exclusive benefit of wildlife.

COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE FINGER LAKES

www.preservethefingerlakes.org

PO Box 505, Penn Yan, NY

The Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes is committed to preserving the natural beauty and the purity of the water in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Its scenic lakes and majestic landscape make the region worth preserving for future generations while tourism, agriculture and the wineries are the well-established foundation of its economy. We promote the region's preservation by objectively identifying environmental and economic threats then informing and educating the general public, officials and administrators. We are also encouraging the uses of renewable energy as an alternative to the fossil fuel.

MONTOUR FALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

406 W. Main St, Montour Falls, NY

www.montourfallslibrary.org

607-535-7489

The Montour Falls Memorial Library is located in a lovely brick building on Main Street in Montour Falls that was built in 1864 to house Charles Cook's Bank of Havana. They have a Historic Resource Room with a variety of local history resources that is open by appointment. The library also hosts a series of talks entitled "In the Finger Lakes" that spotlights innovative and creative things that are happening in the area.

FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST

5218 State Route 414, Hector, NY

607-546-4470

The Finger Lakes National Forest encompasses over 16,212 acres nestled between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The Forest has over 30 miles of interconnecting trails that traverse gorges, ravines, pastures, and woodlands. Since 1996 the Forest also protects the site of a historic summer camp along Seneca Lake with connections to the Women's Rights Movement. The headwaters of many streams leading into Seneca Lake from its' eastern slope originate in the Finger Lakes National Forest.

SOLAR SENECA

For more info, contact Tony Del Plato

tonydelplato@gmail.com

607 294 4013

Solar Seneca is a community based group which plans to bring residents and businesses together with solar power installers. We are also interested in exploring the possibilities of solar installations on schools and other municipal buildings. We are currently awaiting a decision by NYSERDA on our community solar grant application to begin our efforts. Over the past four months, we have been discussing bringing more solar power to the southern four towns of Seneca County: Covert, Lodi, Ovid & Romulus. Besides a description of what kinds of solar power systems we are considering, we will be seeking one representative from the four towns and several others to form a board of directors for Solar Seneca. Another goal includes reproducing the Solar Tompkins program, though on a smaller scale since Seneca County has one third the population of Tompkins County. If our initiative in the southern four towns is successful, we will attempt to create a Seneca County wide program. At this time, we have not vetted or contracted with any solar contractors. Should our grant be approved, we will send out a Request for Proposals (RfP) and meet with solar contractors interested in working with us.

If you're interested in solar power or becoming part of a non-profit group to bring the idea into action, please join us.

GAS FREE SENECA

gasfreeseneca@gmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com/GasFreeSeneca>

PO Box 333, Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Gas Free Seneca was formed in early 2011 in response to Texas-based Crestwood's plan to "build an integrated gas storage and transportation hub for the Northeast," on the shores of Seneca Lake, at the U.S. Salt plant property. The project involves storing gas in unlined, unstable depleted salt caverns that were not engineered for storage, where the company states it has "over 40 million barrels of energy storage capacity". Concerns include: cavern instability, massive industrialization of a world-class wine and tourist region and the negative economic impact that would have in exchange for 10 gas industry jobs, trucks, trains, lights, and noise, along with the threat of catastrophic accidents from storing and transporting dangerous hazardous material in the area, and the threat of increased salinization of Seneca Lake, a drinking water source for 100,000 people. This has resulted in an Issues Conference with the DEC which may lead to a full adjudicatory hearing. Gas Free Seneca started out as a small group of concerned citizens trying to spread the word about the proposed LPG storage facility. Since its inception, Gas Free Seneca has grown into a coalition of thousands of concerned citizens throughout the Finger Lakes region, over 300 regional business owners, and 17 municipalities representing half a million people around the lake who have drafted resolutions against this ill-conceived plan. It is the aim of Gas Free Seneca to protect Seneca Lake, its environs and local home-grown businesses from this threat.

WE ARE SENECA LAKE

www.wearesenecalake.com

[facebook.com/WeAreSenecaLake](https://www.facebook.com/WeAreSenecaLake)

We Are Seneca Lake is a local grassroots campaign comprised of residents and community members who seek to engage in non-violent civil disobedience as a means to protect Seneca Lake and its watershed from the storage of pressurized fracked methane in the salt caverns bordering the lake in the town of Reading, NY. We stand to continue to grow our world class agriculture, wine economy, local culture, as well as maintain our health and safety in the communities that we share. As a campaign, we aim to oppose the build out and infrastructure of fossil fuels and to discontinue our dependency on these energy sources that promote climate change in favor of renewable options.

We ask those who wish to participate in any We Are Seneca Lake direct action to sign a non-binding pledge. Pledge signers will receive an invitation to a training after being carefully vetted. The Pledge can be found on our website @ wearesenecalake.com. We are also on facebook @ [facebook.com/WeAreSenecaLake](https://www.facebook.com/WeAreSenecaLake)

E.B. PERT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

For information contact Roberta Beckhorn, Director
5736 Rte 414, Hector, NY (in the Hector Firehouse)
607-546-6153

The E. B. Pert Memorial Library in Hector has an extensive local history collection that includes a great deal of information regarding Seneca Lake and the surrounding areas. Open to the public Tuesday 12-8 p.m., Wednesday, 9-12 a.m., Thursday 2 - 8 p.m. and Saturday 9-12 a.m. and during firehouse breakfasts the second Sunday of the month. The library also sponsors programs for all ages.

BACKBONE RIDGE HISTORY GROUP

For more information or to become a member, please contact Allan Buddle
607 532 4213
orchardland@zoom-dsl.com.

Between Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake, the two largest of the Finger Lakes is an area of 20,000 to 25,000 acres that comprises a rural farming community that existed from the time of settlement in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Much of it was acquired by the federal government under the authority of the Resettlement Administration, a program of the New Deal in the 1930s. Since acquisition by the Federal Government, the publicly owned lands have been managed under several different federal jurisdictions. About two-thirds of the area is currently the Finger Lakes National Forest, while the remaining area is in private ownership. In the 1930s and 1940s, the land was cleared of buildings although foundations of houses, barns, schools, mills and other features including family burial plots still exist. Those lands considered of sub-marginal quality for cropping were reforested. Other better quality lands were set aside for a cooperative grazing program which continues today.

The Backbone Ridge History Group has for the past seven years and will continue to collect, preserve, interpret and share with the public the historical aspects of life on and around the Backbone Ridge through a research center containing oral histories and documents, a semi-annual cemetery restoration, public programming and publications including a quarterly newsletter for the membership. A long term goal is a living history interpretive site somewhere on the Backbone Ridge that will reflect the time between the population peak in 1850 and when the families were removed by the federal government in the 1930s and 1940s.

OLD HAVANA COURTHOUSE THEATRE

408 West Main St, Montour Falls, NY

www.oldhavanatheatre.com

Imagine walking upstairs to the storage space of a cool historic courthouse building and finding a theatre! That's how the Old Havana Courthouse Theatre came to be. Located in downtown Montour by beautiful Shequaga Falls, the Old Havana Courthouse Theatre runs original Melodrama plays Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7pm from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend and this year we are introducing several Sunday matinees. We also provide musical entertainment for Captain Bill's Seneca Lake Cruises.

The Old Havana Courthouse Theatre is happy to report 4 wonderful seasons. We were received very well by our audiences and cast members alike. A review of the final figures reveals that we served: 1160 patrons over 26 performances for an average of 45 per performance. We are attracting tourist dollars to the finger Lakes through our activity at our theater and at our musical revues on the Seneca Legacy. For the 2015 season we will again provide 4 original interactive comedies rotating bi-weekly over the summer season .We look forward to an exciting season and are currently reading plays for the upcoming summer season. It will be here before you know it. Sincerely, Wm and Donna Christoffels

WRFI COMMUNITY RADIO

www.wrfi.org

Community spirit is literally in the air in Schuyler and Tompkins Counties. Non-commercial, listener-supported WRFI Community Radio broadcasts volunteer-powered and local programming 24/7 at 88.1FM in Ithaca and 91.9 in Watkins Glen.

A dream ten years in the making, WRFI opened the doors of its brand-new Kenny Ritter Memorial Studio in December, 2012. Since then, the fledgling organization has been wildly expanding its local programming (currently at 48 local shows and counting), training volunteers, and developing effective operations for the station.

WRFI exists to inform and entertain. It provides access to the airwaves and an opportunity to learn the craft of radio. It cultivates programs that share local and underrepresented perspectives with the values of peace, justice, sustainability, freedom of expression, cultural diversity, integrity, and joy.

Monday through Friday, following a mix of syndicated and local cultural affairs programming, WRFI Community Radio News, brings you truly independent local and state news at 6:00 pm. Starting at 7:00, our DJs run wild; musical programming is freeform at WRFI. So, although you never know just what you might hear, you can be pretty sure you won't hear it anywhere else on the dial.

Tune in and get involved. Check us out at 88.1FM in Ithaca, 91.9FM in Watkins Glen and streaming worldwide at wrfi.org.

SCHUYLER COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Marion E. Nicastro, President of Schuyler County Habitat for Humanity

www.schuylerhabitat.org or visit facebook

PO Box 45, Watkins Glen, NY 14891

607-583-2799

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian-based, international organization, whose goal is to help eliminate homelessness and substandard housing for families regardless of race, religion, or political beliefs. The Schuyler County Habitat for Humanity group is currently building an affordable home in a continuing effort to break the cycle of poverty. Schuyler County Habitat is in partnership with the Yates County Habitat for Humanity.

Our team has been building a 3-bedroom home at 130 Havana Glen Rd, Montour Falls. This energy-efficient home will provide a healthy, safe environment for those who cannot qualify for a standard mortgage. This home is an ENERGY STAR Certified home. Our partners include: the partner family, local business owners, volunteers of all ages, church groups, corporations, and civic organizations. We believe that when a community works together for the benefit of its neighbors, it builds community spirit, pride of ownership, and encourages motivation. Fund raising to complete this house include: Cars for Homes (donation of older car, truck, van, trailer, RV or boat), Moose Club breakfast (Oct. 18, 2015), a possible craft fair and monetary donations.

We are looking for donations of building supplies and property for the next house.

THE WATKINS GLEN WRITERS GROUP

For more info, contact Charlotte Dickens

cdickens@lightlink.com

910-988-2268

The Watkins Glen Writers Group had its first meeting in May 1994. Charlotte Dickens of Burdett, NY organized and facilitates the group with the help of Michael Czarnecki of Wheeler Hill near Bath, NY in its beginning months. After its inception, we began a reading series in July 1994 in which we invite featured readers of prose and poetry from the region and other areas in the United States. The series is co-sponsored by Poets & Writers, Inc. Following our featured reading we have open-mic where members of the audience may read or present other creative works. Our regular meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM at the Watkins Glen Library. Our readings are held on the fourth Monday, beginning at 6:00 PM at the Montour House Cafe & Tapas Bar in Montour Falls. Anyone who would like to participate is encouraged to come to the reading series or the regular writers group meetings where we share and encourage each other. The group and series have continued for over twenty years, and have contributed to the cultural life of the area.

SOLAR SCHUYLER

For more info, contact Sam Maggio: 607 342 2664 sam@icm.cc
or Lory Peck: lory@htva.net

Increasing the use of renewable and green energy around Seneca Lake helps to preserve and promote what is so beautiful and life giving in our region. While electric energy is vital to our society, and absolutely something we must accept as part of modernity, how we make that energy can either be more in alignment with nature or be more at odds with nature.

Without a doubt, solar energy is far more in alignment with preserving and sustaining the land, the air, the water of this region than fossil-fuel-based methods and fossil dependency. Solar energy will reduce the emission of harmful gases into the air keeping the skies above Seneca Lake brighter, cleaner. Solar energy will mean less pollutants going into the waterways that feed this lake, and yes solar energy will correlate to less pollution of the soil in our region. Our mission at Solar Schuyler is to add 1.2 Mega Watts or 111 new installations of solar energy to Schuyler County and the communities around Seneca Lake. It is a bold undertaking yet we know you would prefer seeing solar panels rather than smokestacks; solar panels rather than methane flare stacks; solar panels rather than fracking fluids poured into pristine waterways.

SENECA LAKE PURE WATERS ASSOCIATION

www.senecalake.org

PO Box 247, Geneva, NY 14456

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA) is committed to the preservation and improvement of the lake water quality and its environs. SLPWA studies issues that are likely to impact the lake in adverse ways and works with the watershed communities to educate the public and collaborate with organizations that have similar goals. Over the past 6 years, SLPWA has been actively involved in critiquing the proposal to exploit shale gas from the region by high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) and provided extensive input to the Governor and DEC opposing the use of this technology in New York State. SLPWA recently participated in the DEC Issues Conference in order to qualify for “party status” in future adjudicatory hearings on the ill-advised liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage in abandoned salt mines next to the lake. SLPWA is also collaborating with Community Science Institute, Ithaca, NY (<http://communityscience.org/>) to do extensive stream monitoring and analysis to determine the sources of lake pollution and to find ways to remediate it. SLPWA has over 400 members and is working to expand its membership and volunteers to carry out this important work.