

# SENECA LAKE ACADEMY



February 28, 2015  
Montour Falls, NY

*Dedicated to the beloved Sam Argetsinger*

From an interview with the *Finger Lakes Times* by Amanda Folts, September 13, 2011...

FLT: *What is the best thing about the Finger Lakes wine industry?*

ARGETSINGER: *The families who work it are open to the land, open to the dream of the land. The land is the dreamer ... This land is famous for thousands of years for loaning. We loan out people ... We're also famous for borrowing. How do you think the French got here? How do you think that Morten Hallgren [owner and winemaker at Ravines Wine Cellars in Hammondsport] got here? This place drew him because she needed him. Now, that might sound a little poetic, or whatever, romantic, but I believe it. ... What I like best is that all these families who are involved in it, they're open minded. They're open to what the land is saying. That's why this is going to go on. This is why we're going to make world-class wines that aren't like any other region's.*

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

FINGER LAKES  
INSTITUTE



seneca  
lake  
pure waters association inc.



*All classes longer than 30 minutes will have a question period for the last 15 minutes of their scheduled time. The question periods will also be an opportunity to stand up, stretch legs, go to the bathroom and check in with youngsters attending the children's programming nearby.*

## TRACES OF SENECA, CAYUGA AND EARLIER CULTURES IN THE FINGER LAKES

**Jack Rossen**

9:30- 10:15 am

## STREAM ENTOMOLOGY 101: BUGS THAT LIVE IN SENECA STREAMS AND WHAT THAT TELLS US ABOUT WATER QUALITY

**Adrianna Hirtler** and **Jim Murphy**

10:15 - 10:45 am

## DIVERSE TEMPERATE FORESTS OF THE FINGER LAKES

**Akiva Silver**

10:45 - 11:30 am

*Walk to MuraBella's - 5-10 minutes if you're a solid walker (or drive if necessary)*

## SENECA LAKE GEOLOGY 101

**Don Duggan-Haas, Craig Carlson** and **Lisa Hallgren**

*MuraBella's, 241 N. Genesee St., Montour Falls*

11:45 - 12:45 pm

## LUNCH FOLLOWED BY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND A FEW MINUTES ON SENECA LAKE

12:45 – 2:15 pm

A lunch buffet of salad and pasta (\$10/person plus tax and tip – children under 13 half price) will immediately follow the Geology talk at the same location.

After lunch (between 1:15 and 2:15) there will be open-boat time on Seneca Lake, informally “hosted” by local naturalist and artist **Jessica Elkins**. This will take place in the heated cabin of the *Seneca Legacy* at its dock (1 N. Franklin St, Watkins Glen), 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**

2:30 - 3:00 pm

## POETRY OF SENECA LAKE

**Peter Motzenbecker**

3:00 - 3:30 pm

## SENECA LAKE DYNAMICS AND WATER QUALITY

**John Halfman**

3:30 - 4:15 pm

## GRAPES AND WINE ON SENECA LAKE: A HISTORY AND FUTURE

**Jim Hazlitt and Phil Davis**

4:15 - 5:00 pm

## COMMUNITY DINNER

*St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House, 108 S. Genesee St., Montour Falls*

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 meal. Live music by Jim Murphy, Gary Kline, Bill Christoffels, Jay Leeming and Adrianna Hirtler.

## OPEN MIC CABARET EVENING

*St. Paul's Episcopal Parish House, 108 S. Genesee St., Montour Falls*

Emcee'd 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. (*Andy Doyle, aka slamtractor, has lived in Schuyler county for almost 50 years. He is co-founder of the Paul Bowles club of contemplative solitude.*)

## **Jack Rossen**

Attending an illustrated talk by Professor Rossen a few years ago was a ground-shifting moment for me. His enthusiasm, unique approach to archaeology and fascinating archaeological finds from our area shed new light on rich connections of people to this place that go further back than I imagined. Images of ornate combs carved with animal effigies in bone still haunt me after first learning of them in that talk. They were left behind by other people who called this place home.

Jack Rossen is an Ithaca College archaeologist who has worked and taught throughout South America and the U.S. For the past 15 years he has been working primarily near Cayuga Lake on Cayuga sites and his work has come to focus on archaeological evidence of the origins of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. He works within a framework known as indigenous archaeology. This approach strives to work with Native people, make archaeology more of a positive force for them, and challenge dominant narratives of the past that have oppressed and denied their rights. This is a growing reform movement within the profession and a reorientation of the discipline's ethics. His specializations include archaeobotany, the study of archaeological plant remains, and lithic technology, the study of stone tools. He also runs the Landon Hall Archaeology Lab at Ithaca College.

**Adrianna Hirtler's** favorite place on Earth is a particular gorge stream near Burdett, NY. Her love for this and other magical streams of the Finger Lakes led to her involvement with the Community Science Institute (CSI) in Ithaca, NY where she works with volunteer groups who monitor water quality by looking at small organisms that live under rocks in flowing water. She has a Bachelors' degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University, an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon, works seasonally as a ranger naturalist at Yosemite National Park and is certified in family-level aquatic insect taxonomy through the Society for Freshwater Science. She is currently the bio-monitoring coordinator for CSI. Most bio-monitoring through CSI has been focused in the Cayuga Lake watershed but in the past few years, volunteer efforts have sprouted up around Seneca Lake as well.

As **Jim Murphy** puts it, he has spent one-half of his life as an eighth-grader in the Watkins Glen school district teaching Physical Science and Environmental Science classes. For Jim, the most transformative classroom is Glen Creek, which flows out of Watkins Glen State Park and past his school. For the past 10 years he and his students have conducted a monitoring program in the creek and this has spawned a generation of students who now observe streams and watersheds with a different eye. Jim received a BS degree in Community Health

from SUNY Brockport and an MPH degree in Environmental Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He had a 15-year stint on the Schuyler County Environmental Management Council and most recently served for three years on the Working Committee that helped to assemble the 2014 Schuyler County Comprehensive Plan. He is presently working on initiatives to bring geospatial technologies and STEM courses into various curricula within his school district. He and his wife Joan arrived in Schuyler County with a 5-month old child, choosing to relocate in this area solely on the basis of its physical beauty and rural character. This decision was never regretted and the community provided a fine foundation for three children who found their paths as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot, speech pathologist, and marketing researcher.

### **Akiva Silver**

I first met Akiva on a Finger Lakes Land Trust tree walk on a cold, rainy spring day. Given the weather, I figured there'd be few other participants and lots of opportunities to ask geeky tree questions. To my surprise, over 50 people showed up! And I didn't ask a single question because I was so spellbound by his incredible tree knowledge and passion. And I've never seen so many people standing around shivering together with huge smiles on their faces, rapt attention and sparkles in their eyes.

Akiva Silver studied primitive skills and wilderness survival for several years at such places as Tom Brown's Tracker School, Hawk Circle Wilderness Education Center, and several wild areas around the world. Akiva has worked for Primitive Pursuits in Ithaca, educating children about the natural world. He has also worked for a tree service, a native plant nursery, and as a landscaper. Akiva currently owns and operates Twisted Tree Farm in Spencer, NY which includes a young chestnut orchard, and a nursery dedicated to growing ecologically beneficial plants for people and wildlife. Connected to the Finger Lakes region his whole life, Akiva grew up visiting his grandfather's house on Canandaigua lake and attending Camp Seneca Lake in the summertime.

**Don Duggan-Haas** is the Director of Teacher Programs at The Paleontological Research Institution and its Museum of the Earth & Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, NY. Don has a BA in Physics from SUNY Geneseo, an MS in Earth Science Education from SUNY Cortland and a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Teaching and Educational Policy from Michigan State University. He has taught at Colgate, Cornell, and Michigan State Universities, Kalamazoo College, and Tapestry and Norwich (New York) High Schools. As part of the PRI's Marcellus Shale team, Don co-authored the book, *The Science Beneath the Surface: A Very Short Guide to the Marcellus Shale*, and has given many public presentations on hydraulic fracturing (a.k.a., "fracking"), providing scientific information

about unconventional drilling in the Marcellus Shale and contextualizing it in the larger energy system. The book, like the associated presentations and educator professional development is done without advocating for or against fracking. Don is a nationally regarded expert in place-based and technology-rich Earth and environmental science education and has served as Chair of the Geological Society of America's Geoscience Education Division. Over years of commuting through the Finger Lakes, he has enjoyed many a journey around Seneca Lake and especially lingering at Watkins Glen and Seneca Lake State Parks.

**Craig Carlson** Craig Carlson is the Earth Science teacher at Dundee Central School. He has taught Earth Science there since 1996, he also teaches Physics, Astronomy, and Oceanography. He received his Bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego and his Master's from Elmira College.

**Lisa Hallgren** is co-owner of Ravines Wine Cellars overlooking Seneca Lake. Ravines has vineyards in Geneva and they also work closely with grape growers in other Seneca Lake vineyards with select geologic conditions in order to cultivate the grapes behind their award-winning wines. Ravines is known for producing focused, mineral-driven Rieslings.

### **Gary Emerson**

If you've spent any time near the south end of Seneca Lake and haven't gone on one of Gary's numerous history walks or programs, then what are you waiting for? He's a wonderful resource for the history of the region.

Gary Emerson grew up in Elmira, NY but currently lives in Odessa near Seneca Lake. He is author of the 2005 book about the Chemung Canal, *A Link in the Great Chain*. As he puts it in his own words, "I always enjoyed reading and learning about history as a child so it was natural that I would grow up to teach it." He graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a history degree and also has an MS in Education from Elmira College and an MA in History from Binghamton University. He recently retired after 36 years of teaching, mostly US History at Newfield High School, but enjoys history so much that he is currently working on a PhD in American History at Binghamton University.

### **Peter Motzenbecker**

Peter Motzenbecker is a graduate of Watkins Glen High School who left his home here in Schuyler County for twenty years. He spent many of those years studying philosophy, and sometimes writing poetry. When his passion for philosophy died, he returned home and found the matchless beauty of our local scenery rekindled his love for poetry. Though he has struggled with the difficulty of capturing a subject that defies adequate description, he has written a few

poems that are worthy of some consideration. And he has unearthed the work of some past poets of Seneca Lake, hoping to spread their poetic views of the lake, and save them from relative obscurity.

### **John Halfman**

John Halfman is pretty much the voice of water quality on Seneca Lake. He has been doing research on Seneca for many years and is largely responsible for the creation of the Finger Lakes Institute through Hobart & William Smith Colleges, an organization that is dedicated to the promotion of environmental research and education about the Finger Lakes and surrounding environments.

John Halfman teaches in both the Geoscience and Environmental Studies programs at Hobart & William Smith (HWS). He earned a PhD from Duke University and taught a few years at the University of Notre Dame before accepting a faculty position in the Department of Geoscience at HWS in 1994. His teaching and research interests revolve around geolimnology and hydrogeochemistry (i.e., water quality issues) of Lakes and currently focus on the Finger Lakes of central and western New York. He has maintained an active monitoring program of the streams and lakes in the region, focusing on Seneca Lake. Current projects include the environmental impact of (1) zebra and quagga mussels, (2) watershed/lake major ion hydrogeochemistry, and (3) nutrient loading from the watershed to the lakes. His interests led to the founding of the Finger Lakes Institute at the Colleges, and earned him the Finger Lakes institute Endowed Chair of Environmental Studies.

**Jim Hazlitt** is the former owner and operator of Sawmill Creek Vineyards which is now run by his son. He remembers his father and grandfather shipping fruit from their Hector farm on the old Lehigh Valley Railroad and how horses were once used to help with labor on the farm. He is currently a board member for Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association as well as Schuyler County Soil and Water District and graduated from Cornell in the class of 1960. He has been a mentor to many grape growers in the region and continues to live through the ongoing evolution of wine-making in the area, having been among the first to plant *Vitis vinifera* vines on Seneca Lake.

**Phil Davis** grew up in his family's vineyard that they bought the year he was born. He has been logging for 33 years and growing grapes for as long as he can remember. In 1997 he helped plant the first vineyard that would bear the fruit behind Damiani Wine Cellars' well-regarded wines and the rest is history. He is co-owner of Damiani Wine Cellars and embraces a "natural-world based" viticulture philosophy.

# THANK YOU SO MUCH...

*Seneca Lake and all of your tributaries (literally and metaphorically speaking). Sam Argetsinger. All of our Amazing Teachers. Julie Kulik and Earth Arts for coordinating the children's programming. Roxanne Leyes and Montour Library for all of her advice and support. Our sponsors: Finger Lakes Institute, Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, Finger Lakes Land Trust, The Wetland Trust, WRFI Community Radio. Everyone who opted to pay tuition! Bill Christoffels and Old Havana Courthouse Theater. Mark Simiele and Captain Bill's Seneca Lake Cruises. Enni Lattin and St. Paul's Episcopal Parish. Bob Misuraca and Murabella's. Melanie Schroeder and Schuyler County 4-H for coordinating the community dinner. Andy Doyle for emcee'ing the Open-mic evening. Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory and John and Sue Gregoire for letting us make their expertly and tirelessly-researched Schuyler County species lists available. The Argetsinger family for letting us borrow photographs of Sam. Finger Lakes National Forest for letting us borrow the Fossenvue quilt. Jim Murphy for his help with so many aspects of the event and his tireless community spirit. Wes Lobdell for donating use of his beautiful photograph to the Seneca Lake Academy for the fundraising note card. Joe at Pioneer Printing in Lodi for printing those cards well at an extremely reasonable price. Laurie Roe for having the idea for the cards in the first place and selling a bunch. Andrew Tompkins of the Schuyler Historical Society for bringing my attention to Bill's amazing theater, MuraBella's and its lovely indoor "waterfall," and Peter Motzenbecker's project of collecting historical Seneca Lake poems. Denny Teeter for her wonderful ideas, connections and support. Laurel McIntyre for helping in a million ways and being a great friend. Jessica Elkins for hosting the open-boat time, making the FaceBook page and helping hugely at key moments. Gina Varrichio for her great energy, ideas and connections. Karen Edelstein for making the map to show where people were from who registered. Katrina Rudmin and John Walsh for letting us borrow their portable PA system. Weebly.com for making it very easy to have a free and functional website. Michael Lausell for donating local, grass-fed beef for the dinner. Phil Jo Smith for finding vessels for the coffee. Lisa and Morten Hallgren of Ravines Wine Cellars for presenting on the geology of wine and generously donating wine for a tasting. Carmella Hoffman and Sunset View Creamery for delivering and giving us a great price on their cheese. Finger Lakes Tea Company for coming all the way down to Montour to allow us to taste their teas. Seneca Salt Company for donating some of the salt chocolate for the tasting. Seneca Lake Wine Trail for a wine donation to the event. Ed Gates and his Burdett dairy for the milk for coffee donation. Jay Leeming for holding down the fort and being a huge support to the main coordinator in all of this. Every participant for setting aside a day for learning more about Seneca Lake and for believing in the worthiness of this endeavor.*