

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Saturday, August 21, 2010 at Thayer Farm

The meeting was called to order by OLA President Wayne Bunn after a time for informal gathering and coffee and donuts.

Wayne welcomed members and guests and introduced Board of Directors' member Paul Lord. Paul brought information about the MarshThistle, a new invasive species which has been found on the south end of Otsego Lake. Paul showed photos of the plant. It resembles a regular thistle, only taller. He advised that if we find any of these thistles that we should cut them out and dispose of them in plastic bags.

Lake Citizen Award- Wayne proceeded to announce that our annual Lake Citizen Award was being awarded to Robert Busse for his efforts in installing and maintaining the buffer strip at Lake Front Part. Wayne asked Suzy Kingsley to elaborate on Mr. Busse's contributions. Mr. Busse was not able to be present to accept the award.

Wayne then introduced the main topic of our meeting: Natural Gas Drilling - Otsego Watershed. Wayne prefaced his introductions of the guest speakers by saying that this was a very controversial issue and that OLA's mission is to educate its members. He commented that OLA had not yet taken a position.

The first speaker was Stephen Keyes, Vice President Regulatory Compliance, Norse Energy Corp. USA- a natural gas drilling company. Steve introduced himself and said that he was from the Buffalo area, but that Norse was drilling in the Norwich area where there was horizontal drilling but no fracking. Mr Keyes detailed the following areas of the drilling process: planning, permitting, scheduling and notification, drilling procedures, installation of the blow-out-preventer, well casing and cementing program, flaring gas while drilling, completion and testing procedures, high volume fracturing jobs, well site restoration, pipeline installation, metering of production and plugging and abandonment.

Nicole Dillingham, President of Otsego 2000 and a member of the Citizens Against Unsafe Gas Drilling Coalition, presented the case for a moratorium on gas drilling. She indicated that we did not have a moratorium at this point and that it was important to impress elective representatives of the significance of this issue. Nicole detailed multiple concerns including: fresh water withdrawal and lack of study by the DEC of its effects, problems with surface spills, untested technology, impact on roadways, radioactivity, lack of treatment facilities for treated water, ramifications of seismic activity, destruction of the economic base of the area (tourism, recreation, natural beauty), and the DEC's limitations and conflict of interest. Nicole also indicated that Win McIntyre of the Water Supervisory Committee, Scott Fickbaum of Soil and Water, OCCA, the DEC's employees' union, the NY State Department of Health and the NY City Watershed and Syracuse Watershed had all come out against unsafe gas drilling. She also stressed that the regulatory protections applied to the New York City and Syracuse watersheds need to be applied statewide. Nicole concluded her program with slides from a site visit to

Dimock. PA on July 9 where Cabot Oil and Gas was drilling. She referred the audience to the OCCA and Otsego 2000 websites for further information.

Wayne then opened the program for questions and comments from the floor. Lou Alstadt introduced himself as a former vice president of Mobil Oil who had directed drilling internationally. He pointed out that Norse had done more than required by current regulations, and that it was important to understand the difference between what the regulations actually are and what the company says it does. He also pointed out that the presentation had been focused on drilling into compressed rock but that drilling into shale was a relatively new procedure where there would be multiple fracs, rather than just one.

There were numerous questions of both presenters. There also was a discussion of why OLA had not taken a position up to this point. Wayne indicated that we had wanted to have this educational presentation and then to poll our members. He invited board members to comment. Jeff Reynolds made a motion that OLA join the coalition as an active member. The motion was seconded and was passed by a near unanimous vote of the members present. Wayne indicated that this would be taken under advisement at the next Board of Directors meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and informal discussions continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Mickie Richtsmeier