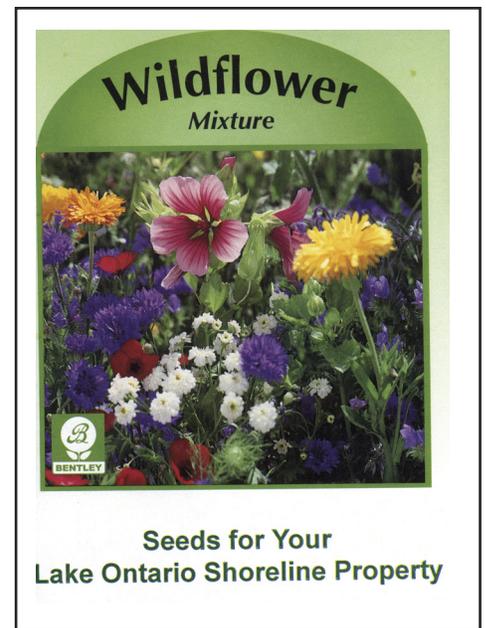


Seeding Lake Ontario's Shoreline Stewardship

New York Sea Grant's new resource guide is helping shoreline landowners to co-exist with the more than 3,500 native plants and animals and 90 fish species that frequent southern Lake Ontario's 712 mile-long shoreline. This free guide includes environmentally-friendly tips to improve the properties of cottage and home owners, which occupy 42 percent of the area's shoreline. A packet of wildflower seeds accompanies the Lake Ontario Stewardship Guide CD, available through www.nysgdunes.org.

Guide author and project coordinator **Molly Thompson**, NYSG's dune and habitat educator, says "The goal of the targeted Stewardship Guide is to provide tips and resources specific to Lake Ontario to encourage property owners to use native plants, create shoreline buffers, and to help control non-point source pollution of the water by not over-fertilizing lawns and by properly disposing of pet wastes and other pollutants."

Made possible by an EPA grant through Chicago's Great Lakes National Program Office, the Stewardship Guide is packed with region-specific information in a clean, bright format with vibrant photographs.



Sections include: tips for creating a wildlife friendly shoreline, important regulations and recommended plants. The guide offers information on yard care, landscaping with native plants, attracting birds with species-specific nest boxes and feeders, enhancing shoreline buffer areas and protecting shoreline habitat for fish. A regulations section outlines state agency restrictions that apply to shoreline property and offers resources for more information.

Sally Sessler, a Cottage Owners Association President in Syracuse, says anyone who owns shoreline property should find this CD of interest. "My family has had Lake Ontario shoreline property since 1947. Many landowners now seem to want a manicured lawn like in the suburbs. I think it's important to leave some of the shoreline property natural." Sessler already has a natural buffer along her shoreline area bordering Lake Ontario and South Pond and is letting a large section of her North Rainbow Shores Tract property grow naturally.

— Kara Lynn Dunn