

Angler “Talks Up” Great Lakes Fishing

Three new interactive exhibits at the Seaway Trail Discovery Center along Lake Ontario in Sackets Harbor promote fishing in New York’s freshwaters. Visitors may push 12 buttons to hear the talking angler characters speak about trout and salmon fishing on Lake Ontario, salmon fishing on the Salmon River, and carp angling on the St. Lawrence River.

NYSG’s **David White**, who was photographed as the Salmon River Angler, comments, “All of the new fishing exhibits are a fun way to educate the public about New York’s Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway region. I think even non-anglers will enjoy hearing about the lake and rivers.”

The Lake Ontario exhibit features a father and son conversation about a charterboat trip on the boy’s birthday. NYS Assemblyman **Robert Oaks**, who provided funds for the exhibit, comments, “My district represents nearly one-third of the Seaway Trail’s ten New York counties and the sportfishing and charter industries are vital components of our regional economy. This new angling exhibit at the Discovery Center introduces and excites travelers about Lake Ontario as one of the finest sportfishing destinations in the country.”

Fran Verdoliva, manager of the NYS DEC’s Salmon River Fish Hatchery, co-authored the Salmon River Angler script. It likens Chinook salmon to powerful Mack trucks, and Coho and Atlantic salmon to Porsches – fast, acrobatic runners.

Englishman **Bernie Haines**, a river guide who has fished worldwide is the face and voice of the St. Lawrence River Carp Angler exhibit. “The St. Lawrence is among the ten best places in the world to fish for carp,” Haines says.

Assemblyman Oaks, the Village of Pulaski, Town of Richland, Oswego Co. Dept. of Promotion and Tourism, Whitaker’s Sports Shop, and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce made the exhibits possible.

— Article and photo by Kara Dunn



The two Daves.



Diane Oleson presents the Clearinghouse poster at the 13th International Aquatic Invasive Species Conference in Ennis, Ireland. Photo by Chuck O’Neill

New York Sea Grant’s **Chuck O’Neill** and **Diane Oleson** brought a little bit of Sea Grant’s National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse to the international conference held in September 2004. O’Neill gave a presentation on the Clearinghouse and both he and Oleson prepared a poster to communicate to conference goers the Clearinghouse’s mission of providing information on invasives to researchers and stakeholders worldwide.

This year the Institute of Technology in Sligo, Ireland hosted the 13th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species. This annual conference is widely considered the most comprehensive international forum for the review of scientific knowledge on the impacts of aquatic invasive species, introduction of new technologies for their control and discussion of public education policy and outreach initiatives to prevent new introductions.

~~The Clearinghouse Goes Emerald~~

Says O’Neill, “Aquatic invasive species have become a worldwide problem as the global economy has increased the transport of raw materials and finished products from continents to continent.” Formed in 1990 under O’Neill, the Clearinghouse started as NYSG’s comprehensive source of zebra mussel information. But with additional funding from the National Sea Grant Program and the power industry, the Clearinghouse went beyond zebra mussels. It now addresses more than 30 marine and freshwater species in a continually updated library and searchable database of around 7,000 documents. Information on specific organisms, ballast water, exotic aquatic organisms, and global invasive species policy issues can be found at www.aquaticinvaders.org. Oleson is editor of the Clearinghouse quarterly newsletter, *Aquatic Invaders*.

O’Neill is no stranger to Ireland having been a guest speaker at “Zebra Mussels in Ireland: An International Workshop” held in Galway in February 1998. His expertise in the area of aquatic invasives has recently earned him a spot on NY Governor **George Pataki’s** New York Invasive Species Task Force.

— **Barbara A. Branca**