



The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.
The Water Quality Management Professionals

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NYWEA's Spring Conference, June 4-6, Turns Spotlight on Syracuse and Onondaga Lake Water Quality

Syracuse – For the first time, the statewide New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) will host its Spring Technical Conference and Exhibition in Syracuse on June 4-6, 2007. The conference attracts hundreds of water quality management professionals to share expertise on regional and statewide water environment issues.

Taking place at the University Sheraton, the conference comprises 11 technical sessions, a number of which focus on efforts to improve Onondaga Lake water quality, including the 2020 Vision Project report by the Onondaga Lake Partnership and several environmental science presentations. The organization is also bringing in a science class from Syracuse's Edward Smith Elementary School to educate them on water conservation and wastewater awareness (Tuesday, June 5, Session 5, 10 a.m.).

The Opening Session keynote speaker (Monday, June 4, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.) is **Cornelius B. (Neil) Murphy, Jr.**, president of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Other opening speakers are Onondaga County Executive **Nicholas Pirro**; Commissioner of Onondaga County Water Environmental Protection **Randy Ott**; and, Onondaga Nation Chief **Oren Lyons**. In addition, **Dave Eichorn**, meteorologist at Channel 9 WSYR, will present "Global Warming – a Global and Local Perspective."

The conference includes the statewide Operations Challenge competition that attracts teams of wastewater treatment operators to compete in a series of operational

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problem-solving cases -- the champion team qualifying for the October national competition in San Diego, hosted by the international Water Environment Federation. A manufacturing and technical vendors' exhibition will be open throughout the conference as well.

A number of special activities and tours are available to showcase Syracuse and its surroundings. They include the NYWEA President's Reception at the Everson Museum; a Picnic at Onondaga Lake with a Blessing of the Lake Ceremony by the Onondaga Nation; an Environmental Science Tour of the Tully Valley Mud Boils; a tour of the Onondaga County Metropolitan Syracuse Sewage Treatment Plant and the Honeywell Waste Bed/Willow Tree Biofuel Project. A "trolley" sightseeing trip to the Village of Skaneateles and shuttle service to Armory Square for shopping and restaurants are also available.

Conference participants can earn continuing education credits. Details about the Spring Meeting program schedule and registration are available online at www.nywea.org or call the NYWEA executive office at 315-422-7811 (ext. 1).

NYWEA is a statewide, nonprofit organization of 2,300 environmental engineers and water quality management professionals that promotes clean water programs and related technical and public education. It also sponsors a scholarship program to encourage careers in science and engineering and supports humanitarian assistance projects to provide clean water. Headquartered in Syracuse, NY, the NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 12 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation.

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NEWS MEDIA: To arrange coverage, contact Patricia Cerro-Reehil, executive director, NYWEA Executive Office, 315-422-7811 (ext. 2)/ pcr@nywea.org; or leave a message with NYWEA administrative assistant Maggie Hoose at 315-422-7811 (ext.1).