Mohawk Watershed Symposium - 2010
19 March 2010, Olin Center, Union College, Schenectady NY
- Final Program -

Friday 19 March 2010

Oral session (Olin Auditorium) - Registration and Badges required

8:30  8:50  Registration, Coffee.  Olin Foyer

8:50  9:00  Introductory remarks
John I. Garver, Geology Department, Union College

9:00  9:25  Mohawk River: Erie Canal; Its one in the same (Invited)
Howard Goebel, Canal Hydrologist, New York State Canal Corporation

9:25  9:42  EST: Linking watershed protection with youth development through community based volunteer stream monitoring programs in the Mohawk Watershed.
John McKeeby, Executive Director, Schoharie River Center

9:42  9:59  Comparative analysis of volunteer and professionally collected monitoring data
Kelly Nolan, Director of Environmental Services, Watershed Assessment Associates

9:59  10:16  Ice jam history, ice jam mitigation training and ice jam mitigation efforts in the Mohawk River Basin
John Quinlan, Lead Forecaster, National Weather Service, Albany, NY

10:16 10:33  Learning through experiments and measurements: the Mohawk Watershed as an outdoor classroom
Jaclyn Cockburn, Geology Department, Union College

10:33 11:03  COFFEE and POSTERS (see below for listing)

11:03 11:28  A new look at the formation of Cohoes Falls (Invited)
Gary Wall, Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey

11:28 11:45  Weather and climate of the Mohawk River Watershed
Steve DiRienzo, Senior Service Hydrologist, NOAA - National Weather Service

11:45 12:02  Landslides in Schenectady County
John Garver, Geology Department, Union College

12:02 12:19  Use of high-resolution LiDAR images to identify slopes with questionable stability along the Mohawk River banks
Ashraf Ghaly, Department of Engineering, Union College

12:19 12:36  Historic flooding at selected USGS streamgages in the Mohawk River Basin.
Thomas Suro, Hydrologist and Engineer, United States Geological Survey

12:36 13:46  - LUNCH -

13:46 14:11  FEMA flood maps, flood risk and public perception (Invited)
William Nechamen, DEC NYS

14:11 14:28  Peak shaving: An approach to mitigating flooding in the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys
Bob Price, Dam Concerned Citizens

14:28 14:45  US Army Corps of Engineers approach to watershed planning
Jason Shea, Civil Engineer/Watershed Planner, US Army Corps of Engineers

14:45 15:02  The Hudson and the Mohawk: working together
Frances Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

15:02 15:32  COFFEE and POSTERS (see below for listing)
Mohawk River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts and its comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Invited)
Amanda Schaller, Resource Conservation Specialist, Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District

The case for conservation releases from the Gilboa Dam: impact on riparian habitat and water availability on the Schoharie Creek
Howard Bartholomew, Dam Concerned Citizens

Protecting water quality through a watershed approach
Kevin Millington, Coastal Resources Specialist, New York State Department of State

An overview of water rights in New York State
Frank Montecalvo, Consultant, West Canada River Keepers

Discussion and Conclusions
Jaclyn Cockburn, Geology Department, Union College

Symposium Reception (Old Chapel) 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, Dinner and Keynote to follow

Poster session (all day)

F1 The Gilboa Dam and the role of Dam Concerned Citizens as a citizens’ advocacy group
Sherrie Bartholomew, Dam Concerned Citizens

F2 Methods and techniques of stabilization of soil slopes
Ashraf Ghaly, Department of Engineering, Union College

F3 West Canada Creek Watershed Map
Kathy Kellogg, West Canada Creek Riverkeepers

F4 Colloidal concentration estimation using ADCP echo intensity
Bill Kirkey, Research Assistant, Clarkson University

F5 Thermal characteristics of Schoharie Creek and its consequences for Brown Trout (Salmo trutta)
Ashley Kovack, Environmental Science Program, Union College

F6 A late Holocene record of Mohawk River flooding preserved in a sediment core from Collins Pond in Scotia,
Mark Krisanda, Environmental Science Program, Union College

F7 Aqueous photolysis of organic ultraviolet filter chemicals
Laura MacManus-Spencer, Chemistry Department, Union College

F8 Mapping and volumetric calculation of the January 2010 Ice Jam flood, lower Mohawk River, using LiDAR
and GIS
Antonios Marsellos, Research Associate, Geology Department, Union College

F9 Determination of historical channel changes and meander cut-off points using LiDAR and GIS in Schoharie
Creek, NY
Antonios Marsellos, Research Associate, Geology Department, Union College

F10 A tree-ring record of slope stability along Sandsea Kill, Schenectady County, NY
Nicole Reeger, Environmental Science Program, Union College

F11 The effects of storm duration and intensity on the urban watershed
William Schoendorf, Geology Department, Union College

F12 Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council (SCEAC) and its activities related to water and climate
Mary Werner, Chairperson, SCEAC
Symposium Reception (Old Chapel) 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, Dinner and Keynote to follow

Keynote Address:
Gail Shaffer - Watershed Wisdom: The Politics of Change

Ms. Shaffer will share her reflections on drawing upon her experience in the public policy arena and in the non-profit sphere, to identify strategies of value to citizens in effecting change in our challenging political climate.

Gail Shaffer is a native of the northern Catskill Mountains, having grown up on a farm in Blenheim, in Schoharie County. Her public service career spanned two decades. She served twelve years as New York Secretary of State. Prior to that she served in the New York State Assembly, representing Schoharie County and parts of Albany, Schenectady, Montgomery and Delaware Counties. She began her public career as a town supervisor and county legislature. She graduated summa cum laude from Elmira College, majoring in political science. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and valedictorian of the class of 1970, she also studied political science at the University of Paris during her junior year. Locally, she attended a one-room schoolhouse in Blenheim and graduated from Gilboa Conesville Central School.

Currently a writer, Shaffer is among the founding board members of Dam Concerned Citizens, Inc., a not-for-profit watchdog organization that advocates for dam safety at Gilboa Dam (Schoharie Reservoir) as well as statewide, nationally and globally.

For details and further background material refer to the Shaffer and Currie abstract (p 61) Citizen Participation: Grassroots organizing to impact policy - Dam Concerned Citizens as a case study.