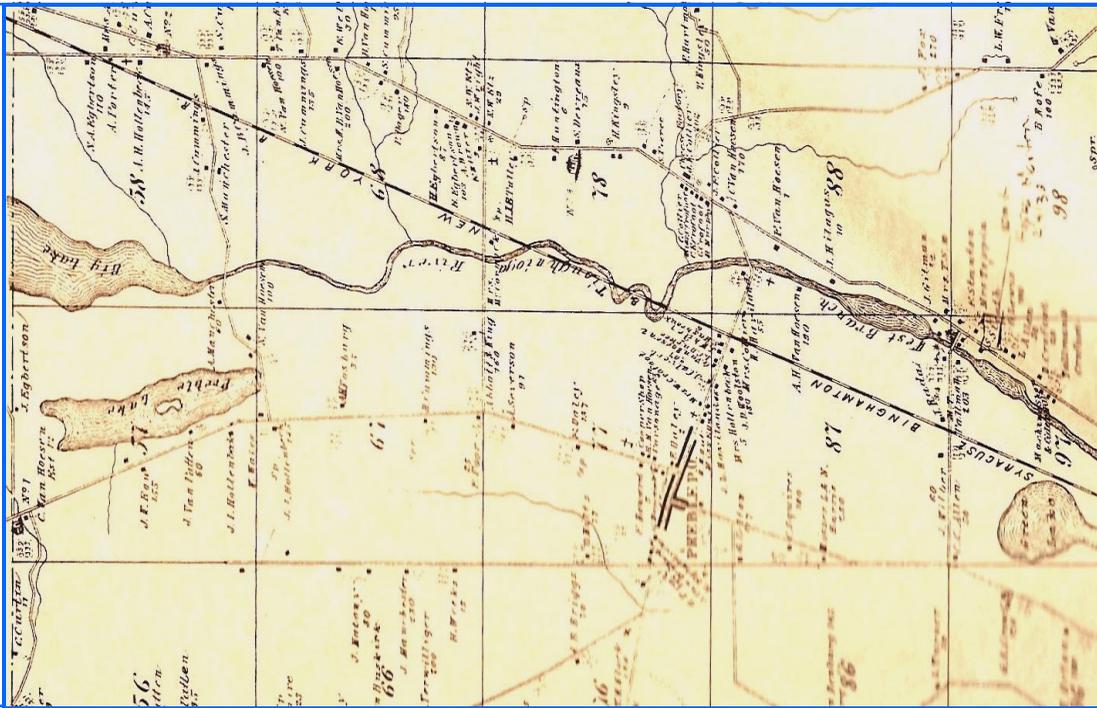


# Our Song Lake Watershed

Volume 7



Section of Preble Township Map, 1867

Song Lake Watershed Planning Committee  
1900 Rittenhouse Square  
Tully, New York 13159

## **Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc.**

*The Cortland - Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc. (COFOKLA) is dedicated to the preservation of the kettle lakes, surrounding waters and watershed regions in Cortland and Onondaga counties. COFOKLA does so by advocating awareness of lake resources, educating communities about watersheds and their protection, and promoting stewardship of those waterways.*

The idea to form a coalition of lakes began in September, 2008. At that time, Song Lake Property Owner's Association hosted an informal information picnic to meet the neighboring association members and learn about water issues in our region. Residential stormwater management education was presented by Onondaga County's Cornell Cooperative Extension and invasive species information was presented by Cortland County's Cornell Cooperative Extension.

In December, 2008, the group held the initial meeting of lake associations with 20 members representing four Central New York kettle lakes. Attendees included board and committee members from the Song Lake Property Owners' Association, Crooked Lake Homeowners' Association, Tully Lake Property Owners' Association, and Little York Lake Improvement Society. The meeting was facilitated by Anne Saltman, Senior Planner, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

C-OFOKLA is now a recognized New York State Corporation with 501C-3, non profit status. Each of our meetings begins with a 20 to 30 minute presentation from professionals with information to help us in our planning efforts. The following have presented in the past: Jim Cunningham, President of the Madison County Federation of Lake Associations (MadFOLA) and Director for the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, John T. Helgren, Public Health Engineer, Cortland County Health Department and Pat Reidy, Water Quality Specialist, Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District. Dr. Lars Rudstam, Director, Cornell University Biological Field Station and Dr. Randy Jackson, Senior Research Associate, Cornell Biological Field Station, Dr. Kimberley Schulz, Associate Professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, research combining laboratory experiments, field studies and modeling techniques to investigate ecological issues in aquatic systems, Joe Heath, General Counsel for the Onondaga Nation and Environmental Activist, and most recently, Mat Webber from the Isaac Walton League.

The next C-OFOKLA meeting will March 22nd at the Tully Town Hall. If you are interested in learning more please call Tarki at 696-5262. All presentations are open to the public.

### **WE WOULD LIKE YOUR OPINIONS ~ WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

The production of these newsletters has been possible through generous donations to the Song Lake Watershed Fund through the Song Lake Property Owners Association. To continue, we need your support. To help sponsor our next issue, please contact Tarki Heath at 696-5262. Please let us know what you think of our newsletter by emailing your comments to [SongLakelIssues@aol.com](mailto:SongLakelIssues@aol.com).

## Issues on Song Lake

## Radon and Song Lake Resi-

Radon In Our Area...

The red regions on this map indicate the zones where the highest predicted levels of radon are found. In these regions, the average indoor radon screening level is greater than 4 pCi/L (pico curies per liter). As you can see, we live in the red zone.

### **What is Radon?**

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Its presence in your home can pose a danger to your family's health. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in America, claiming about 20,000 lives annually.

### **How to Test...**

Cortland County residents can obtain free test kits through the Cortland County Department of Health. You must go to their offices and produce proof of residency and home ownership. For more information, call 607-753-5035. New York residents can obtain a radon test kit from the New York State Department of Health for \$8.50. The cost includes shipping, handling and analysis. Test results are sent directly to the person who submitted the kit. To purchase a radon test kit, call the state's Radon Program at 1-800-458-1158 extension 27556 or download an application at

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/radiological/radon/testkit.htm>

Test kits are also available in some local hardware stores.

### **What Next?**

Radon is a health hazard with a simple solution. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners have already fixed radon problems in their homes. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs; check with one or more qualified mitigators. Call NYS DOH Radon Hot line: 1-800-458-1158 x27556/(518) 402-7556 for help in identifying qualified mitigation contractors. Or go to: <http://www.nyradon.org/> If you are a Cortland County resident homeowner, you are eligible for a \$100.00 mitigation rebate. Applications are available with proof of repair costs, at the Cortland County Health Department.

For More Information on Radon:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/consguide.html>



### **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## **Invasive Species and Ice Fishing**

Invasive species are active all year round. The same precautions that good anglers take during the open water season need to be practiced during the ice season as well.

Of particular concern is the VHS virus because it is most active in water temperatures below 60 degrees. The disease can spread fish to fish, or through water contaminated with VHS.

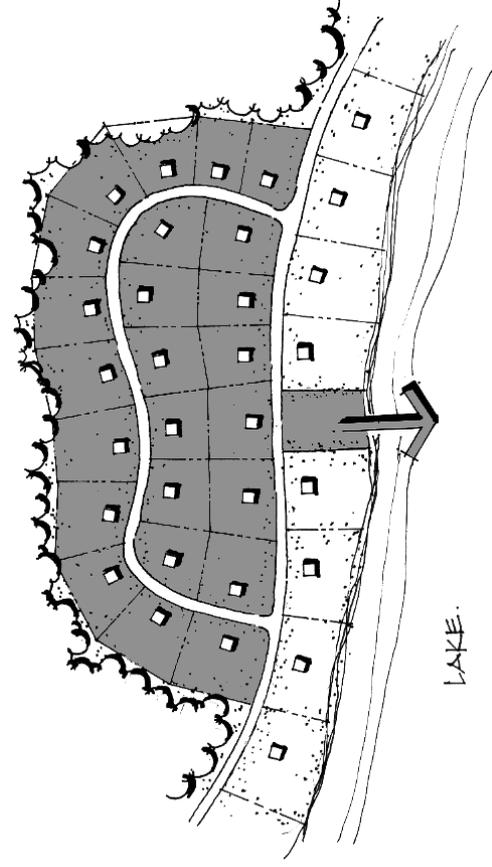
- Don't move live fish away from the water. Keep the fish you want to take home on the ice until you leave at the end of the day, or carry them away in a dry bucket.
- Drain all water from your equipment. That includes all buckets and containers of fish. When you're leaving the ice, you may carry up to 2 gallons of water in which to keep your minnows.
- Follow bait rules. Buy the bait from Wisconsin bait dealers. If you take minnows home after a day fishing and you've added lake water to their container, you can return with them only to that water body the next day.
- Preserve bait correctly if you catch your own. If you use smelt or other dead bait, preserve it in a way that does not require freezing or refrigeration. Watch the video [Preserving Your Bait](#) on the DNR Web site for more information.

Adapted From : [http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/news/DNRNews\\_article\\_Lookup.asp?id=1287](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/news/DNRNews_article_Lookup.asp?id=1287)

## **Song Lake Watershed Update**

The Song Lake Watershed Committee is still working to complete its second survey. Our sincere thanks to all of you who returned your completed surveys. If you have a survey still sitting in a desk drawer, please be sure to send it back in the stamped envelope. Some of the committee members have spent their own money on postage in an effort to make the survey process easier for all. We look forward to your participation.

Recently, the community showed strong support for a shared shoreline access ordinance. The town of Preble has listened to its constituents and enacted a 6 month moratorium on keyhole developments, with the goal to propose and vote on a permanent ordinance in June. Keyhole developments are those where a single access to the lake is made available to many residential houses. Such developments cause extreme stress to lakes, especially those that are small and shallow, as Song Lake is. In addition, Song Lake has no inlet or outlet, so whatever enters the lake stays there. The inability of Song Lake to "flush" makes our lake highly susceptible to pollution.



For more information about Song Lake watershed planning contact Tony George -696-8045,  
Marjrie Grillo -696-5963, Tarki Heath -696-5262, or Gloria Wright -696-5524