

Schoharie River Center • Environmental Study Team

Our mission is to instill a love for learning and science, encourage community engagement, promote the values of stewardship for the local environment, and encourage the positive and responsible involvement of all people in their communities.

For Immediate Release:

Watershed Field Days: Showcasing Citizen Science and Community Advocacy in the Mohawk River Basin

October 2 – 3, 2015

Schoharie River Center

2025 Burtonville Road, Esperance NY 12066

The Schoharie River Center, a not for profit environmental education and cultural organization located in Burtonville NY will host the two day event to showcase and promote citizen science and community advocacy in the Mohawk River Basin. On Friday Oct 2, the SRC's Environmental Study Team Program will host a Watershed Data Jam with high school students from Duanesburg, Fort Plain, Mohonasen, and Middleburgh Schools. Running from 9 – 1 pm the students will be introduced to watershed and stream assessment skills through conducting hands-on field work activities including water chemistry testing, macro-invertebrate sampling and identification, and Forest and Riparian area study. Student will also present their own analysis of scientific data sets provided to them by their teachers at the beginning of the school year.

Student work and research will be presented and on display for Saturday's Field Day (October 3rd) program which will be open to the public and feature additional programs and exhibits throughout the day where the public can participate in a variety of out-door, stream and forest ecology learning activities. Local community based organizations involved in a wide range environmental, artistic and community advocacy will also be on-hand with information, displays and exhibits. A featured presentation of the **Community Keeper Award** will be made to **Dam Concerned Citizens**, a local grass roots organization based in Middleburgh, whose efforts to advocate for dam safety and the emergency repair and rebuilding of the Gilboa Dam by New York City has demonstrated tremendous dedication and effort to improve, protect and advocate for the health and safety of the residents of the entire Schoharie Valley.

The afternoon will showcase the **Akwesasne Women Singers** who will perform at 2:00 p.m., following a presentation by **Maxine Cole**, a member of the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment (ATFE) and the co-chair for the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the ATFE, which has advocated for environmental and health issues along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Akwesasne Women Singers, a group of Mohawk women of all ages and walks of life, have gathered for the cause of countering the gradual loss of their Mohawk language and perpetuating their tribal culture through music and stories. Some of the music is traditional, and some composed in "Kanienkeha" by Bear Fox, who worked closely with elders to ascertain correctness of the language. The women call themselves "Kontiwennenhawi" or "Carriers of the Words."