



# Atlantic States Legal Foundation

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**SUMMER 2012**



*Save the Rain Green Corridor Project - 300 Block of E. Water Street*

## **Progress Made in Green Infrastructure Corridors**

2011 was the first full year of implementation of the Amended Consent Judgment's (ACJ) 4th Stipulation, and it was a remarkable year. In April, Onondaga County, with the City of Syracuse, was named one of the country's Top 10 leaders in green infrastructure by EPA, and became an EPA "Green Infrastructure Partner" in promoting innovative green approaches to managing stormwater. By the end of 2011 the County's 'Project 50' green infrastructure (GI) campaign completed 30 GI projects along with another 30 under construction, including several high-profile signature projects such as the 60,000 square foot green roof system at the Onondaga County OnCenter complex (one of the nation's largest green roofs) and an innovative water re-use system at the War Memorial Arena that converts captured stormwater into ice for

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the Syracuse Crunch AHL hockey team. In late 2011, the National Resources Defense Council included Onondaga County as a case study for green infrastructure implementation in its publication *Rooftops to Rivers II: Green Strategies for Controlling Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows*.

Noticeably, construction on the 300 block of the East Water Street GI corridor (formerly called Gateway), one of the two GI corridor projects for which ASLF has produced conceptual designs, has been completed. This is the first GI corridor project that has been built. The design narrowed the street by having a designated parking lane while adding curb extensions (bulbouts) that form infiltration planters to capture stormwater. Pavers (pre-cast paving blocks) were used to surface the parking lane, and more infiltration planters run along the parking lane receiving runoff from the street and the sidewalk. The project was developed in conjunction with the private renovation of 323, 325, and 327 E. Water Street and is part of the long-term strategic vision for a green corridor along E. Water Street. The 2nd GI corridor project, West Onondaga Street Green Corridor, is under design phase assisted by ASLF and more GI corridor planning is on the way.

## Green Infrastructure Exhibit

Atlantic States Legal Foundation has partnered with Onondaga County's Department of Water Environment Protection and the Syracuse Center of Excellence to create an informational exhibit on Green Infrastructure. The exhibit highlights the importance of sensible stormwater management practices in Central New York. The exhibit is currently located at the MOST (Museum of Science & Technology) after having been exhibited at the Onondaga County Public Library's Robert P. Kinchen Central Library on South Salina Street and the Hazard Branch Library on West Genesee Street, the Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center on New Street, and at the New York State Fair.

We expect to share the Exhibit with other public venues in our area to help provide information to local residents about the importance of stormwater management and hopefully inspire local students to seek careers in the sciences. If you are interested to have the exhibit placed in your location, please contact us.



*Vacant Property in the City of Syracuse*

## An Urban Forestry Strategy for Stormwater Management

Impervious surfaces, damaged soils, brownfields and decreased vegetative cover challenge the city of Syracuse and most other urban environments. These built environments and altered landscapes increase stormwater runoff, degrade water quality and impair aquatic habitats. Onondaga Lake and its tributaries have

a long history of water quality issues and environmental degradation due to years of industrial contaminant discharge, combined sewer overflows (CSO) and stormwater pollution. The Syracuse CSO system was designed to discharge excess flows during wet weather events into local waterways connected to the lake.

In 1988, ASLF initiated a lawsuit to stop Onondaga County's violations of federal water pollution standards at its sewage treatment plant.

ASLF, New York State and Onondaga County agreed to an Amended Consent Judgment (ACJ) requiring the county to improve its system of municipal wastewater collection and treatment and provide a schedule for attaining compliance with the Clean Water Act. A federal Judge approved the ACJ in 1998 ordering Onondaga County to reduce and eliminate the occurrences of CSO discharges under the ACJ. In 2009, a fourth amendment to the ACJ was approved and adopted to include a strategy which involved the use of both grey and green infrastructure approaches to control CSOs. This project is one of the many remedial (Grey/Green) measures in compliance with the new ACJ amendment and in response to public opposition to the county's original "grey infrastructure only" approach.

ASLF has been implementing a green infrastructure approach through grants we have been awarded by the U.S. Forest Service through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). These grants fund the exploration of a robust urban forestry system in Syracuse for stormwater management, as well as brownfield remediation (brownfield projects will be discussed in our next newsletter). ASLF has examined 519 private and publicly owned properties including residential parcels, vacant lots, parking lots, parks, open land/fields and wooded areas. The sites were evaluated for urban tree lots/forest development and stormwater management opportunities. ASLF has identified about 250 public and privately owned lots and open land areas as potential sites for tree lots/urban forest stands and green infrastructure development and management practices. A survey is being developed to ascertain, from private landowners, their plans for future use and potential interest in converting some of their vacant lots into urban forest plots, gardens and pervious parking. Arrangements are being made to schedule discussion meetings with county and city personnel to prioritize opportunities for developing urban forests and other green infrastructure on some of the sites identified.

## US-China Watershed Project

**G**reen Watershed (based in Kuming, Yunnan Province, China) and ASLF are working together on a joint project aimed at applying each other's



*Lashi Lake, Yunnan China*

successful watershed management techniques to each other's watersheds. Green Watersheds, under the leadership of Yu Xiaogang, (winner of the 2006 Goldman Prize for Asia), has done exciting and productive work helping protect and improve various watersheds in China using methods that are vastly different from what we have been doing here in the Onondaga Lake watershed; now we are learning from each other. Both Lashi Lake near Lijiang, Yunnan and Onondaga Lake in the Syracuse, NY area have been studied for many years to determine how to reverse decades of neglect and degradation resulting in lowered water quality and aquatic habitat.

Both communities contain a central lake valued by indigenous peoples, as well as watershed areas that greatly contribute to the lake's decline. In absence of full commitment by government entities citizens have taken the initiative, but they are lacking technical ability in regard to water testing, do not have full involvement from the affected indigenous peoples, and require new stakeholder management. In the Lashi Lake watershed specifically, we hope to introduce more sophisticated scientific techniques for water quality testing and

implement improvements to meet a desired upgrade from grade 3 to 2 (based on the Chinese water quality system, this upgrade would allow for the water to be treated for potability allowing an additional 300,000 urban residents access to drinking water) as well as expand an already successful stakeholder-driven management regime to include the input of an additional 40 villages (of Yi and Naxi indigenous groups) in the watershed. In the Onondaga Lake watershed we will take cues from the collaborative management successes from Lashi and engage local resident stakeholders to create lasting consensus-driven management regimes, such as citizen planning entities, with a focus on ecologically and economically sound decision-making. Another goal of this collaborative process is to foster a cross-cultural exchange of management techniques and strategies, the implications of which will be long lasting and have implications for other watersheds far beyond these geographic locales. The end result of this work will be a significant improvement in the management strategies and water quality regarding the respective watersheds, as well as a new collaborative and holistic model for watershed management that could be applied elsewhere in the future. In Lashi we will introduce better and more advanced scientific and technical approaches for testing water quality, as well as broaden the already successful collaborative management process that is in place. This includes the purchasing of new equipment, training, staffing, as well as outreach efforts to incorporate the input of an

additional 40 indigenous villages (Yi and Naxi) into the watershed management process.

On the U.S. side we will endeavor to determine what management goals can be accomplished through voluntary cooperation of the stakeholders and then see if consensus can be established to implement these goals. For example, a farmer-landowner group would be set up to assist in the implementation of improvements in the physical-chemical-biological integrity of receiving streams that now carry non-point pollution from land run-off and eroded stream banks. Specifically we will provide significant outreach, including training and education, to a wide variety of stakeholder groups, urban and rural alike, each with varying interests in water quality and land-use. A part of this process will include education and promotion of ecologically sound agriculture, fishing, development, and tourism such as that which has been successful in the Lashi Lake watershed.

## ASLF Presents at National and International Conferences

Atlantic States Legal Foundation has been invited to share its respected views and visions of environmental solutions at national and international conferences recently. In September 2011, ASLF staff spoke at the Philadelphia Low Impact Development Symposium, explaining

*Samuel Sage at the South West University of China*



how ASLF and other advocates have helped Onondaga County switch from gray to green infrastructure to combat its combined sewer overflow (CSO) issues. A paper written for that presentation has been submitted for publication in the post-conference proceeding of this symposium. During a trip to China in January 2012, ASLF gave presentations at Southwest University in Chongqing and the Yunnan Biodiversity Research Institute in Kunming. These presentations dealt with the conservation of biodiversity and its significance to urban environmental improvement. More recently, ASLF's President Samuel Sage was invited to speak at the 2012 Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference in New Orleans in June. Titled *Reclaiming Vacant Properties: Remaking America for the 21st Century*, he spoke about how the Save The Rain Vacant Lot Program, led by ASLF, incorporates stormwater management, urban agriculture, urban forestry and community involvement into vacant land reclamation and the urban planning process to bring significant changes to neighborhoods. This same topic will also be presented at the 5th Annual Ecosystem Service Partnership Conference in Portland, OR in August 2012. ASLF's abstract for an oral presentation has been accepted by the organizing committee.

Along with the above presentations, ASLF's Vice Chair, Martha Loew, represented us at Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012. We also contributed a paper to the Rio+20 compilation document dealing with the green economy, which is discussed in the following article, *The Green Economy and Rio + 20*.

## **The Green Economy and Rio + 20**

We at ASLF are proud to have been represented at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development this year in Rio de Janeiro. Martha Loew (ASLF Vice-Chair) presented a paper titled "*Inputs for Rio+20 Compilation Document: The conceptual problems of Green Economy and Sustainable Development*" written by ASLF expert on the international green economy Medani Bhandari. The paper is summarized as follows:



*Samuel Sage (L.) and Medani Bhandari (R.) at the UN*

As the Rio+20 has already set the objective to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, it should begin to create common ground and build consensus among stakeholders as it was able to do at the 1992 conference.

The proposed themes of the Rio+20 Conference -- a green economy (GE) in the context of sustainable development (SD), poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development -- are very vague. There is no clear documentation regarding the history and the theoretical route of green economy initiatives.

The Rio+20 conferences should prioritize the institutionalization of the SD and GE concepts in various binding agreements. To implement the green economy initiatives in the developing world, there is also a need to change or revisit the trade regulations imposed by the World Trade Organization (WTO); especially the social and environmental conditions of specific developments such as the removal of the ability of foreign cooperation to override local social and environmental factors. To foster the ability of the developing world, it is essential to establish a chain of cooperation between developed and undeveloped nations (North & South). The chain of cooperation can be established through creation of international oversight schemes which can help to bridge the gap between North & South.

To achieve the desired outcomes with such complicated issues, it is difficult to propose a specific timeframe. Regardless, some temporal framework must be created, and we propose three schemes: (1) 2 to 3 years policy and program framing phase; 4-6 years program implementation phase; and 7-10 years monitoring and evaluation phase.

# Communicating the Hazards of Onondaga Lake Fish Consumption to Multicultural Communities in Syracuse

In April of this year, Atlantic States Legal Foundation launched a new initiative to create awareness in the non-English speaking immigrant community about consuming Onondaga Lake fish that are contaminated with mercury, PCBs, and other toxins. Funding is provided by US EPA Region 2 and the Onondaga Lake Partnership.



*Walleye, Illustration Courtesy of Peter Thompson*

ASLF has been involved in the translation and dissemination of previous fish consumption and lead advisories in Syracuse. This involved the translation of messages into Spanish and Vietnamese. The City of Syracuse, NY is a multicultural community with a large non-English speaking immigrant population including (but not limited to) Sudanese, Lao, Somali, Hmong, Karen Burmese, and Bhutanese. Most of the people from these groups come to the U.S. as refugees, and find themselves facing different cultural awareness and practices regarding environmental issues.

To supplement their diet, many individuals from these groups eat fish from Onondaga Lake, which are significantly contaminated with mercury and other remaining toxins from past industrial activity. In large quantities this source of protein is toxic, especially to children. Some of these non - English speaking residents are also unable to read, rendering useless any written materials in their native language.

We at ASLF would like to initiate a program to tackle not only this problem, but also future issues involving communication of environmental hazards and risks

to immigrant groups. The project we are envisioning involves two phases and a concluding pilot study, and is considered a high priority by both the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. EPA.

The first phase will involve a collaborative effort to ascertain the most effective methods and routes to communicate to specific multicultural groups in Syracuse. During the second phase this information will be used to create strong and effective advisories against consumption of contaminated fish, which will involve a good deal of community interaction.

Finally, the pilot study would investigate the feasibility of alternative protein sources for Syracuse immigrant groups, such as urban tilapia farming (which would also be a source of green jobs). This model would likely be applicable to other types of environmental hazards.

Providing access to this information will allow for greater awareness of environmental stewardship principles, particularly as they apply to our food supply. Greater involvement in environmental decision- making will be encouraged as a part of the message discussed above, as well as participation in community environmental social activities. With this project, ASLF hopes to be distributing information beginning in late summer, and maintaining the project continuously.

## ASLF Involved in Onondaga Lake TMDL for Phosphorus

In March of this year, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus for Onondaga Lake in preparation for setting a limit on phosphorus discharges from the Metropolitan Syracuse Wastewater Treatment Plant (METRO). ASLF has been intimately involved in the development of this draft TMDL, and commented on both a pre-public release version and the official version released for public comment. Our primary concerns with the TMDL include:

- Lack of consideration of the Lake tributaries, which also have excess phosphorus

- Inadequate protection of native cold and coolwater fishes
- Reliance on a phosphorus guidance value to protect aquatic life, which was developed for recreation only
- Reliance on a recent ban on phosphorus-containing fertilizers to sufficiently reduce non-point sources of phosphorus into the lake. The public comment period is now closed, and DEC is developing a final version for approval by the EPA.

Stay tuned for more information.

## STR Vacant Lot Program

Much progress has been made on the Vacant Lot Program (VLP) since our last article. ASLF staff has designed a long list of candidate projects to be implemented this year and has developed much more of the program.

To briefly recap the VLP from our last newsletter, the City of Syracuse (City) is facing the challenge of more than 3,000 vacant lots within its city limits. These vacant parcels cause concerns about liability, safety, heavy littering, maintenance costs, and unpleasing aesthetics. Onondaga County has developed methods that will use green infrastructure (GI) on these lots to improve stormwater capture under the “Save the Rain” (STR) program. It is projected that, in the summer of 2012, eight to twelve lots will have GI added to the landscape,

with the same number projected to be implemented each year until 2018, covering 20 acres for a total capture of nine million gallons per year. ASLF has been directed by the County to develop a vacant lot program that will focus on stormwater management while incorporating other benefits for the surrounding community.

New uses for vacant lots include: urban orchards or fruit gardens, vegetable gardens, ornamental gardens, and urban forests or tree plantings. While all sites have their individual qualities, all share the benefits of but are not limited to encouragement of economic development, aesthetic improvement, enhanced emotional wellness, increased habitat for urban wildlife, opportunity for green job creation and, of course, reduced stormwater in the sanitary sewer system.

The City Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has been working closely with ASLF to both plan improvements for the VLP parcels and revise the City’s wise management of scarce resources in the future. The City currently is finalizing its draft of the 2040 Comprehensive Development Plan which will include many programs involving deconstruction, open space management, and others that apply directly to the VLP, while also conserving resources for future generations. Projects expected to be constructed in the coming months this year include W. Onondaga and Arthur St., 109 Hartson St., and 224-226 Putnam Street. These three projects all include tree planting and rain gardens. Being the first projects constructed, these sites were chosen for having a lesser amount of complexity than the

*Save the Rain Vacant Lot Program - 701 Oswego Street under Construction*



other candidates. Establishment of these projects, to be considered pilots, will allow the STR-VLP development team to recognize strengths and weaknesses of the VLP before more complex projects are constructed. Many of the Autumn candidates will require outreach programs, detailed management, operations guidelines, and so on. Once finalized designs become available you will be able to view them on our website at [www.aslf.org](http://www.aslf.org).

ASLF continues to develop the VLP program and plan for the coming years of continued VLP projects. While we continue to work on resolving ownership, operations, and management issues, ASLF is just as focused on ensuring the community affected by these projects receives the proper attention. The success of the VLP depends on a large amount of community interaction with, and approval of, the VLP project sites before and after construction.

ASLF staff is currently developing a plan for performing this outreach in the affected communities near the existing and future projects. Partnering with other City, County, and STR consultants will allow us to achieve our desired outcome.



*West Onondaga Street Historical Photo*

## **ASLF Combines History and Environmental Design**

A broken sewer line in front of the ASLF office has provided a unique opportunity for the progression of our landscape toward more sustainable ends. Almost the entire front lawn had to be torn up in order to replace the pipe, and as a result we have been left with

a veritable “clean slate”; perfect for a new garden.

ASLF’s office is located on West Onondaga St. in a historic Victorian-era mansion that was built in 1883. Known as the Silas Hahn house, the building changed hands several times, even serving as a mental health hospital at one point. ASLF has decided to capitalize on this rich history by planning a representative planting scheme that would have been common outside of large Victorian homes in the late nineteenth century.

Our research will take us to various sources, including the Onondaga County Historical Society, for photos, sketches, plans, and descriptions of Syracuse gardens from this period. While we may not find direct information about the past landscape of the Silas Hahn house, other representative designs are sure to reflect, to a certain degree, something similar to what was here. Garden design in the late-nineteenth century was in a time of transition. Still popular was the gardenesque style, which was based on highly formalized schemes focused on unusual, exotic plants arranged in geometric patterns. The concept often centered on treating the garden as a collection of these non-natives and it was important that this stood out from the surrounding natural landscape.

In the 1880s and 1890s there was a growing interest in more naturalistic landscape schemes, with designers like Gertrude Jekyll becoming famous for her informal perennial arrangements and use of native plants. ASLF envisions a design scheme for the front garden combining elements from both schools of thought. We would like to create something, informed by any historical evidence we encounter, that is both gardenesque and naturalistic. This will most likely be accomplished through a somewhat formally designed landscape that incorporates native plants.

Many of these natives will be species that are important food sources for endangered or threatened insects as designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. These plants include, but are not limited to: Blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), several species of native violet (*Viola* spp.) and Canadian cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis*). Other plants we would like to include are milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias syriaca*), Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) as well as sedges (*Carex* spp.).

Another dimension to this project will be the



incorporation of green infrastructure, namely a rain garden. A rain garden is designed to collect and hold stormwater, allowing for on-site infiltration back into the water table. Runoff from the roof of the ASLF office will be diverted into the rain garden, which will be built with a slight depression to allow for the capture. The integration of this green infrastructure feature with the historic garden design will be what makes this project an exciting challenge. We hope to initiate grading and planting before winter.

## ASLF Supports “Complete Streets”

The streets of our cities and towns are an important part of the livability of our communities. They ought to be for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars, or worse, creeping traffic jams.

Now, in communities across New York, planners must establish a complete street design policy that safely and cost effectively facilitates access and improved mobility for pedestrians, cyclists, mass transportation riders and motorists of all ages and abilities. Such a policy benefits our environment through improved air quality, decreased traffic congestion and the preservation of our natural assets. Design features may include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crosswalks, pedestrian control signalization, bus pull outs, curb cuts, raised crosswalks, ramps, and traffic calming measures. Everyone benefits, not only from the environmental advantages derived from a complete street policy, but from the health benefits associated with active forms of transportation.

“Complete streets design principles have been proven to reduce fatalities and injuries, and by taking them into consideration on future projects we will greatly improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers of all ages and abilities. This new law will result in safer roadways and ... will help save lives, prevent injuries, and make New York a safer place for all” said Senator Charles Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick), the bill’s champion in the Senate.

ASLF supports our local planners and engineers as they improve street designs to incorporate the needs

and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and users of mass transportation.

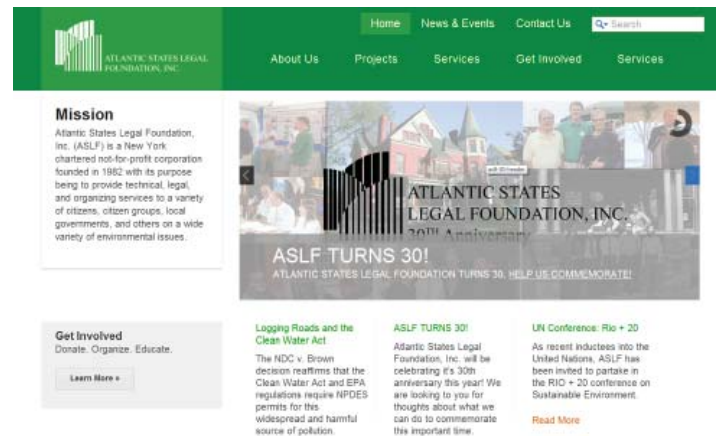
## Atlantic States Redesigns and Updates its Website

ASLF’s website became difficult to manage due to its old format and layout design. We collectively sat down and rethought its appearance, purpose, and content. Once we were comfortable with the results of brainstorming, we then hired Bentley Hoke web consultants to take our vision for the website and complete the renovation.

New features include: a search function, new navigation system, contact forms, new content, staff and board of directors, how to get involved with us, services, and much more.

Perhaps the biggest advantage that the new website provides will be to stay in touch with our extended network. If you would like to receive digital copies of our newsletter, want to inquire about current or future projects, or get involved please visit [www.aslf.org](http://www.aslf.org).

### ASLF Website



## Constituency Building

A routine observer of the news must be baffled by the apparent contradictory messages being received on issues relating to the health and future of the planet. On the one hand, people seem to be absorbed in issues – good and (mostly) bad - about the environment. They eagerly await reports on the latest findings about climate

change, endangered species, on advances in renewable energy (and the horrors of the exploring for and burning of fossil fuels), and an entire broad spectrum of such important matters both locally and globally. On the other hand, issues of the environment seem totally absent in the rhetoric of this year's election campaigns. What is going on?

Although we are not supposing we have the answers to this apparently contradictory situation, a few observations are in order. Top on our agenda is the issue of awareness and involvement. Although the public seems to have a vast appetite for news about the environment, they are getting little reinforcement about things they can do. Yes, they are told to plant a rain garden to absorb storm water, but formal pathways towards involvement seem lacking. The major environmental NGOs, being some of the largest and oldest in the country, are more affluent than ever, at least if you believe stories of large contributions to them. They seem to have lost their direction, however, and instead of bringing along their membership in voluntary ways toward being environmental and social change activists, they seem to use these new resources to build large bureaucratic staff and to a greater and greater extent compete with corporations in PAC creation and money distribution to candidates.

The leadership of the big environmental groups is comprised of bright, politically astute individuals. Why do they not see the folly of their ways? Cynically we can say that they no longer consider themselves outsiders trying to change the system. These groups have been created by and for highly educated, mostly white, people whose involvement in environmental causes generally originated in their enjoyment of pristine spaces. They are those who can afford to live surrounded by the beauties of nature, with clean air and water a given. They do not hurt for cash to pay for high energy costs. But who is now living in the United States? Despite the resources and educated staff at their disposal, most of the green groups cannot effectively reach out and encompass underserved people who are different from the majority of their membership body. This is not meant as a reflection of their attitudes towards these people; rather it is the fact that living in a different world does not give them the tools to empathize with and understand the rights of these "others" to also live in a healthy environment.

Unfortunately our elected and appointed political leaders and their hired consultants generally fall into the same trap. They ardently express the wish for public input on all key decisions, spending large amounts of money reaching out through print, electronic media, and public meetings. The results are meager. As we go from hard engineering solutions for our problems (the gray world) to decentralized, community focused small projects (the green world), there is no chance of success without full understanding and cooperation from underserved urban residents. We must find a better way, soon!

Atlantic States Legal Foundation, with support of the US EPA and NYS DEC, is attempting to figure out how to understand and involve these historically underserved peoples. We have embarked on what will be a long-term project that aims to increase the understanding of how to work with and communicate to these largely unheard citizens. We want to provide them with tools for understanding how environmental factors influence their lives – currently mostly for the worse, but also how they can help them as well. Finally we need to help them overcome some of these problems in their own lives. Local examples include finding alternative protein sources to contaminated Onondaga Lake fish, to growing fruits and vegetables that are healthy and familiar.

The first phase of this project has begun. ASLF staff are working with sociologists and environmental justice people from various universities trying to better understand the obstacles and figure out how communication can proceed in a mutually trust-making atmosphere. A summer intern from Colgate University will be writing a paper based on findings in the literature and with some interviews as to what is known and found to be useful. She then will then apply this within one or two ethnic neighborhoods in Syracuse. Finally, with assistance from various people and groups, we will publish an up to date listing of fish advisories for this area in a number of appropriate languages. Anyone who has any experience in this area and wishes to help us, is more than welcome to do so.

## **Building Upkeep; New Equipment**

Through the generous donations of our supporters, ASLF was able to replace its antiquated furnace in 2011. The new water boiler is 95% efficient and lowers

our heating costs considerably. An unexpected and unwelcome necessary repair in 2011 was the complete replacement of our sanitary sewer connection. Both an age-related material failure and the intrusion of tree roots caused the stoppage to become apparent, and good work by a local plumbing company and the good fortune of little snow and ground frost allowed the repair to be completed in December.

We are currently looking for funding to enact a large-scale refurbishment of our telephone and computer networks. Computer wiring has deteriorated due to age and the telephone system has become both obsolete and highly expensive to repair. We look forward to requesting bids on this massive project and would like to see it completed during 2012.

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Donating to ASLF is easy with “Network for Good” or by mail. Visitors to our websites now have the ability to donate simply by clicking the *Network for Good* logo. Of course, we still enjoy opening mail to find a donation by check, too! Please support your favorite local environmentalists!!! All contributions to ASLF are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Copies of ASLF’s financial report may be obtained from the New York Department of State, Albany.

YES! I want to contribute to ASLF’s important work.

I am already a member. Please update ASLF’s records with the following information.

Sign me up at the following level:

- “Spill Stopper” (\$50-\$100)
- “Toxic Avenger (\$100-\$250)
- “Super-funder” (\$250-\$500)
- “Benefactor” (\$500 +)



Donations link at [www.aslf.org](http://www.aslf.org)

Volunteer member (contribute time/services in addition to or instead of funds)

I can help ASLF out by:

- Doing research in my area.
- Helping out in the ASLF office.
- Providing a place to stay for ASLF associates working in my area.
- Other:

Send me  newsletters to distribute

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## About Atlantic States Legal Foundation



Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Inc. (ASLF) is a New York chartered not-for-profit corporation founded in 1982 with a mission to provide technical, legal, and organizing services to a variety of citizens, citizen groups, local governments, and others on a wide variety of environmental issues. We are creative problem solvers trying to advance environmental sanity through the implementation of projects that in addition to their intrinsic merit, can be prototypes for similar efforts elsewhere by ourselves and others.

ASLF has been involved in a vast spectrum of projects dealing with environmental conservation and stewardship, urban revitalization through green design, public health, water resources, and large-scale collaborative efforts to solve complex multifaceted urban ecological problems. We view ourselves as facilitators of collective impact, in that our management expertise allows for efficient and

effective coordinated efforts between the diverse sets of community actors and stakeholders with whom we work. Our proposed projects have received funding and contracts from a number of sources ranging from citizen groups and private foundations to government on all levels. We have also initiated contracts for these entities to carry out their priority projects. Examples of our sponsors range from state-level organizations (Sierra Club Illinois, Georgia Environmental Program, Isaac Walton League Indiana), state agencies (NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation), federal agencies (US Department of Commerce, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US EPA, US Forest Service) and foundations (Joyce, Mott, etc.). In all of these cases we have been administrators and project managers in carrying out complex programs with staff, volunteers, and agency personnel.

For the past thirty years ASLF has been a leader in executing complex projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Although we have worked in numerous countries on every populated continent, we recognize the tremendous value in acting locally and thinking globally. Our dedication to the Syracuse and Central New York community has been demonstrated many times in our past local environmental initiatives, and will be demonstrated again in future projects that we are currently planning and are very excited to begin. We look forward to continuing progress on our various programs with community members, government officials, organizations, and private foundations so that our communities become more sustainable, in every sense of the word, every day.



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