The Summer 2015 Teacher Professional Development event will be held Tuesday, September 1 from 10 am until 2:00 pm at Willow Bay Park at Onondaga Lake Park, Liverpool, NY.

Our presenters will be Neil Paterson, SUNY-ESF and Cutis Waterman, Onondaga Nation. They will take us on a bio-cultural tour that includes some walking, exploring, and a hands-on activity.

Neil Patterson, Jr, Tuscarora, is the Assistant Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at SUNY-ESF and also a member of the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. He has extensive experience developing environmental protection and restoration efforts in Haudenosaunee communities as the founding director of the Tuscarora Environment Program. Neil leads several Haudenosaunee environmental education and bio-cultural restoration efforts, including revitalization of indigenous food and agricultural systems, conducting eco-cultural youth camps, and promoting customary use protection in upstate New York. Neil has a BS in Environmental and Forest Biology from ESF, previously was a GK-12 Fellow with ESF and is in the process of completing his Masters degree at ESF. Many of you may have seen Neil’s community work as he was the force behind the long house that sits on the NYS Fairgrounds that is based on an archeological excavation of a 17th century long house.

Curtis Waterman, Beaver Clan, Onondaga Nation is also a representative to the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. He has been monitoring the environmental restoration of Onondaga Lake since 2010 and is an active participant in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process. Curtis is also an award winning blues musician, winning three Native American Music Awards. He plays harmonica and sings with several upstate New York groups: Cornbred, Gonstermachers and Tabletopthree. He is an active bass fisherman with the Saltcity Bassmasters fishing club and at State Federation Tournaments. His club will be submitting a restoration plan to the Onondaga Lake Watershed Partnership for consideration. The plan will enhance habitat or all aquatic species.

Teachers should dress to be outdoors and wear appropriate foot wear.

Lunch will be provided.

RSVP NOW to Maura H. Stefl, mhstefl@esf.edu or 315-470-6811 yay or nay

The PD is open to all ESF in the HS teachers and prospective schools.

We understand that some of you may have teacher professional development at the district level but would appreciate it if you could see if you can substitute this event for part of your requirements.