

## IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE ACTIVE WITH LAKE FISHING EVENTS

During 2008, the Central New York Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (CNY Chapter) was involved in promoting recreational fishing at Onondaga Lake. The Chapter carried out and assisted with the following events: Onondaga Lake Day Learn to Fish Clinic; Family Fishing Derby; Annual Carp Tournament; and the ESF Summer Science Camp Program.

Always a highlight of the OLP's annual Lake Day event in June, members of the CNY Chapter were busy all day leading a "Learn to Fish Clinic" for over 75 youth who had never fished. Boys and girls were taught how to cast using a fishing rod, and how to put a worm on a hook and catch a fish. It was very satisfying for Izaak Walton volunteers to see the children's excitement when they caught their first fish. Most were successful in catching pan fish and some smallmouth bass.

On June 28, about 230 youth and adult anglers participated in the 22nd edition of the Izaak Walton League's annual Family Fishing Derby at Onondaga Lake Park. Over \$500 worth of prizes were distributed to anglers who caught pan fish and game fish along the lakeshore and in the lake outlet. The mostly young anglers proved once again that Onondaga Lake supports a diverse population of fish species, and that catch-and-release fishing can be a fun and rewarding experience.

The fourth annual Carp Fishing Tournament on June 29 was another successful tournament



Izaak Walton League holds a Learn to Fish clinic, June 2008 (Source: Onondaga County)

with participation of over 50 anglers who vied for prizes worth over \$1,500. This event is developing a cadre of carp fishermen who recognize Onondaga Lake and the Seneca River as a stretch of very productive waters with trophy fish weighing up to 40 pounds.

In 2008, the Izaak Walton League provided seven weeks of in-kind support through personnel and material (e.g. fishing bait/tackle) contributions to programs sponsored with SUNY ESF. During the summer, over 160 children participated in science camp activities funded by the OLP. Monies from the OLP again assisted with this ESF science camp program. Mat Webber and Ray Besecker from the CNY Chapter worked together with the Onondaga

Lake Stewards from ESF to teach campers how to safely hold their fishing poles, bait them, and cast. Many participants expressed interest in returning to the lake with their families and friends. This hands-on experience and excitement will hopefully develop into a long-term interest in Onondaga Lake and its ecology. ♦

*Conrad Strozik, Izaak Walton League*

### WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

In the wastewater field, infrastructure refers to the constructed system of pipes, concrete, pumps and facilities that transport and handle sewage within a municipality. These traditional methods are called "gray" infrastructure. Local officials are evaluating and planning the use of "green" infrastructure to manage stormwater and reduce the impacts on the combined sewer system in the city of Syracuse and Onondaga Lake and its tributaries. Green infrastructure technologies include porous pavement for sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, use of rain barrels and rain gardens, tree plantings, vegetated (green) roofs and retention basins to reduce the volume and rate of stormwater runoff