

**DOCUMENTARY FILM *BLOOM: The Plight of Lake Champlain* SLATED FOR FREE
SHOWING AT WHALLONSBURG GRANGE HALL ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24
Event Co-Sponsored by the Adirondack Council and The Grange Lyceum Lecture Series
also Features Post-Film Discussion Led by
Eric Wolinsky of the St. Albans Area Watershed Association**

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ESSEX, N.Y. – Poorly treated sewage, agricultural runoff, lawn fertilizer and development along tributary streams are all causing runaway bacterial growth in Lake Champlain that results in massive, potentially toxic blooms of blue-green algae.

The documentary film *BLOOM: The Plight of Lake Champlain* explores the local consequences of this pollution and what it means to the communities that surround the lake.

"Anyone who cares about the future of this amazing lake should come and see this movie," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal. "We are working every day to help improve conditions on the Adirondack side of the lake and we have made some progress. The Saint Albans Watershed Association has taken similar steps on the Vermont shore. But there is much more work to be done.

"Algae blooms are an unfortunate fact of life on the lake right now," Houseal explained. "They need not be a permanent fact of life. We all need to work together to put a stop to them. This film will help to educate people on both sides of the lake about the problem and potential solutions."

More than 130 miles long, Lake Champlain is the sixth largest lake in America. It is the border between Vermont and New York, forming the eastern edge of the Adirondack Park. It extends far into Quebec and its waters flow north through the Richelieu River into the St. Lawrence River. Its water comes from rivers and streams that stretch far into the Adirondack and Green mountains.

BLOOM: The Plight of Lake Champlain was created for public television and premiered on Mountain Lakes PBS. The filmmakers and regional organizations are now bringing the film to local showplaces on both sides of the lake to help spur discussions about the future of watershed communities and the lake they depend upon.

Eric Wolinsky, President of the St. Albans Area Watershed Association will be the guest speaker at the close of the movie at The Grange in Whallonsburg, 1610 NYS Route 22, in the Town of Essex. The Grange is five miles south of the Essex Ferry Dock. Both the movie and the community forum are free and open to the public. The film starts at 7 p.m.

This spring, *BLOOM* was honored with a New England Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. *BLOOM* received the award in the environmental programs category at the 34th Annual Boston/New England Emmy Awards Ceremony in Quincy, MA.

The Adirondack Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of New York's 9,300-square-mile Adirondack Park.

For more information on The Grange, go to www.thegrangehall.org.