



Contact: Phillip J. Wajda  
(518) 388-8394 / 857-8601 (cell)  
[wajdap@union.edu](mailto:wajdap@union.edu)

March 26, 2009

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. – The Mohawk Watershed Group at Union College will host the first conference on the physical aspects of the Mohawk River Watershed on Friday, March 27, in the College's Olin Center. The conference has 110 registered participants.

The Keynote speaker at the evening banquet is Robert H. Boyle of Cooperstown who will discuss using science and the law to protect the natural resources of the watershed from predatory interests.

Given the burgeoning public and scientific interest in the Mohawk Valley, Robert H. Boyle's keynote speech, \_\_\_\_\_ at the Union College symposium, will deal with threats to the natural and cultural resources of the region.

Boyle has been involved with the recent controversy in the West Canada Creek that surrounds water use and riparian rights. He has been instrumental in the legal challenge of the West Canada Creek Riverkeepers in the lawsuit between the Mohawk Valley Water Authority and the NY State Canal Corporation, which is now before the NY State Supreme Court.

In his address, Boyle will focus on a several key energy and water issues and how they can be met using science and the law.

Issues include the substantial water used for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus and Utica shales; the lack of state siting standards for industrial wind installations; and out-of-basin water transfer.

Robert H. Boyle is the founder of Riverkeeper and the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research. Boyle, named by *Audubon Magazine* as one of the 100 Champions of Conservation for the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

---

For more information, contact John I. Garver, at 518-388-6770, or [garverj@union.edu](mailto:garverj@union.edu).

---

Contact: Phil Wajda - Director of Media & Public Relations  
Contact Person: J.I. Garver, Geology Department, Union College  
Company Name: Union College, Schenectady NY  
Telephone Number: 518-388-6770 (Garver) or (518) 388-8394 / 857-8601 (cell) (Wajda)  
Fax Number: 518-388-6417  
Email Address: [gaverj@union.edu](mailto:gaverj@union.edu)  
Web: [http://minerva.union.edu/garverj/mohawk/symposium/2009\\_Mohawk\\_symposium.html](http://minerva.union.edu/garverj/mohawk/symposium/2009_Mohawk_symposium.html)