



History of the Salt City **By Dr. Bill Kappel, United States Geological Survey, Ithaca, NY**

From the late 1700s through the early 1900s, brine from springs in and around Onondaga Lake, from former brine wells at the lake's edge, and from wells that tapped halite beds near Tully, NY, were used commercially for salt production. The rapid development of this industry in the 18th and 19th centuries led to Syracuse's nickname "The Salt City." The brine originates from halite beds of the Salina Group shales of central New York. The dissolution of halite by groundwater creates brine that moves through an unconfined basal aquifer northward to the springs near Syracuse.

This presentation will discuss the history of salt production in the Syracuse area and will explain the origin of the halite deposits and the groundwater flow paths from the halite beds to Onondaga Lake. It will also discuss the need to understand the hydrogeology of the Onondaga Valley and potential changes in water quality (specifically salt water) in relation to ongoing remediation of Onondaga Lake and its surrounding watershed.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 11 at the Genesee Inn**, 1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY. From **5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** there will be a short course sponsored by Columbia Analytical Services, Inc. The talk will discuss passive diffusion bag samplers for the collection of groundwater samples for volatile organic analysis. There will be a **cocktail hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** **Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.** and our featured speaker, Dr. Bill Kappel, will begin his **talk at 7:30 p.m.** The cost of dinner is \$17 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$15 for student members. Please RSVP by Monday, October 8, to Bonnie at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at bolney@pwinc.com or 437-1429.

Directions to Genesee Inn: To get to the Genesee Inn, take the Teal Avenue exit south from Route 690. Go approximately 1 mile (crossing Erie Boulevard) and turn west onto Genesee Street. The inn is on the south side of the street, between Crouse and University Avenues. The phone number of the Inn is 476-4212.

Our November meeting will take on Thursday, November 8 at the Genesee Inn, and will feature Mr. C.B. Melton, FMC Corporation with a talk entitled "Chemical/Biological Terrorism: Good Science or Science Fiction?" Prior to the dinner meeting, there will also be a short course sponsored by Parratt-Wolff. Further details of the November meeting will be provided in next month's newsletter.