

News Release: July 20, 2007

Exclusive photo for the Dunkirk Observer - photo file IMG_6206-1.JPG

Contact: Andrew Dufresne, Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association 716-640-4641 cell,
716-386-4833 home

NY State Promotes Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area



Andrew Dufresne, Executive Director of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, and Katherine Tampio, Supervisor Town of Hanover, display the new New York State Heritage Areas poster and brochures with a backdrop of vineyard, rural community, and Lake Erie, key components of this newest NYS Heritage Area.

The Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area is receiving recognition and promotion through the I Love NY celebration of the 25th anniversary of the New York State Heritage Areas Program, 1982 - 2007.

Andrew Dufresne, Executive Director of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, lead agency in the management of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area, said "We were fortunate to become the 19th New York State Heritage Area in 2006. We can join in the celebration of the Heritage Areas across New York State which are described as "special places where we honor history, celebrate the present, and plan for the future of our communities." Our Heritage Area is the first to recognize the agricultural history and importance of the grape industry, as we like to say, the oldest and largest Concord Grape Growing region in the world. We're on their maps now!"

Town of Hanover Supervisor Katherine Tampio notes the heritage connection. "Our local grape industry has played an important part in our region's history and today it is an agri-business that helps to support our local economies and attracts visitors to our area. As we enjoy a glass of wine at one of our local wineries or other great grape products we can make a salute to our ancestors who certainly would have agreed that grapes are in our blood."

Dufresne notes "our Association often uses the jingle "from Silver Creek New York to Harborcreek Pennsylvania" to describe the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt area which encompasses some 22 towns and villages. We have some very active Pennsylvania members in our 175 plus member organization. The New York State official designation is of the New York State area, but recognizes the importance of the Concord grape area in Pennsylvania and collaborative efforts in the two-state area to promote agriculture and tourism."

Dufresne said that the designation has been good for the area and that there are challenges ahead, "we have to develop a Management Plan for our Heritage Area. This will include plans for a Concord Grape Belt Visitors/Discovery Center".

Copies of the state Heritage Area Brochure will be available at the Association's display booth at the Chautauqua County Fair or by email request to: inforequest@concordgrapebelt.org or calling 716-386-4833. The Association is celebrating the 25 Heritage Area Anniversaries with a "I Love My Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Photo Contest" with entry deadline July 31, 2007. Entry forms and rules can be downloaded from www.concordgrapebelt.org. A showing will be held in conjunction with the Fredonia Farm Festival, August 24 and 25, at Barlow's Mill in Fredonia.

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News Release: July 20, 2007

Photo for the Westfield Republican - IMG_7214-1.JPG

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Contact: Andrew Dufresne, Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association 716-640-4641 cell,
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NY State Promotes Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area



Helen Baran, President of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, Martha Bills, Supervisor Town of Westfield, and Douglas Richmond, County Legislator for District 22, display the new New York State Heritage Areas poster and brochures.

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Helen Baran, President of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, Inc., the lead agency in the management of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area, said "We were fortunate to become the 19th New York State Heritage Area in 2006. We can join in the celebration of the Heritage Areas across New York State which are described as "special places where we honor history, celebrate the present, and plan for the future of our communities." Our Heritage Area is the first to be recognized for the agricultural history and importance of the grape industry here for over 150 years, as we like to say, the oldest and largest Concord Grape Growing region in the world. We're on the NY State Heritage Areas maps and publications now!"

Town of Westfield Supervisor Martha Bills has been involved with the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Designation and Association projects. Westfield has a very rich history which includes the development and growth of the grape juice processing industry. Today the partnerships between agriculture and tourism offer hopes for economic and community development.

Chautauqua County Legislator Douglas Richmond notes the Chautauqua County Legislator has been very supportive of the Heritage Area designation and work of the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association. Last month the Chautauqua County Legislature unanimously passed a motion of support for these efforts to increase heritage tourism and markets for the agriculture produce of Chautauqua County.

Andrew Dufresne, Executive Director for the Association notes "we often uses the jingle "from Silver Creek [Chautauqua County, NY] to Harborcreek [Erie County,PA]" to describe the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt area which encompasses some 22 towns and villages. We have some very active Pennsylvania members in our 175 plus member organization. The New York State official designation is of the New York State area, but recognizes the importance of the Concord grape area in Pennsylvania and collaborative efforts in the two-state area to promote agriculture and tourism."

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