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# NEWS from the CWC

## Reservoir boating begins this weekend!

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., May 22, 2012 – The wait is almost over for non-motorized boating enthusiasts who've long yearned to dip their oars and paddles into the waters of New York City's huge reservoirs in the Catskills.

On Friday, May 25, the start of Memorial Day Weekend, the 'OPEN' sign will be hung at the Pepacton, Schoharie, and Neversink Reservoirs for the first time. The Cannonsville Reservoir, which has been available to canoes, kayaks, row boats and small sailboats for the past three years, will once again welcome boaters as well.

Fishing in flat bottomed row boats has been allowed on all reservoirs since they were built to supply water to New York City and several upstate communities. The successful Cannonsville pilot program to expand recreational use to other non-mechanized vessels prompted the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to open three more reservoirs to boaters this year.

With support from the Catskill Watershed Corporation, tourism promotion officials and municipal leaders, this exciting new recreational resource is now available to boaters with DEP Access Permits (available online).

Invited officials and community leaders will participate in opening ceremonies at the newly opened reservoirs on Thursday and Friday. The public will then be welcome to launch their boats at specified sites after having them steam cleaned at approved vendors. There they will receive boat tags allowing short term (up to one week) or season-long access (through Columbus Day).

For reservoir maps, a list of steam cleaning vendors, boat launch sites and rental locations, DEP regulations regarding boat size and usage, and a link to the required DEP Access Permit application form, visit

[http://www.thecatskillregion.com/destinations-tourism/Reservoir\\_Boating.aspx](http://www.thecatskillregion.com/destinations-tourism/Reservoir_Boating.aspx), or  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/cannonsville\\_boating\\_program.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/cannonsville_boating_program.shtml)

Brochures containing this information for each reservoir are downloadable from both sites, and are also available at boat cleaning vendors and many businesses and information centers in the region. To have a brochure mailed to you, call the Catskill Watershed Corp., 845-586-1400.

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