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For Immediate Release

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Local Village Becoming International Site ***Baldwinsville to Host International Carp Angling Tournament***

BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK, MAY 6, 2008—This month, Baldwinsville has two things on its mind: its international carp angling tournament and the community celebration that wraps up the event.

Both professional and leisure anglers representing nine states (TX, OH, NY, NJ, CT, NC, IL, TN, MO) as well as Hungary, Poland, England, Canada, and Romania toss lines from the shores of the Seneca River beginning at **9 AM on Thurs., May 15**. After 50 consecutive hours of angling, they toss in the towel, clean off the fish slime, and head to Paper Mill Island in the heart of the village to find out who qualified for over \$16,000 in cash and prizes.

This is the second year American Carp Society Tournaments has chosen Baldwinsville as the site of its NE Regionals. Last year's haul of over 28,544 pounds of carp in this catch and release event has hooked international media attention, resulting in more competitors and volunteers for 2008. According to ACST Director David Moore, "The community of Baldwinsville has embraced the sport of carp angling, and evident enthusiasm for hosting anglers from around the world abounds."

Can't turn garbage into gold? Well, this community may be doing just that. As a bottom feeder, many locals had long considered their high population of carp as annoying unpalatable trash fish. However, Baldwinsville has unearthed a worldwide community of folk amazed at the overwhelming number of healthy carp and eager to battle with this hard-fighting, fresh-water fish.

Just peruse the March '08 Japanese magazine *Carp Fishing* (available at the local library) or France's July '07 *Media Carpe*. You won't have to understand the language to recognize the photos of Baldwinsville sites, its people, and its carp.

"We are proud," commented Chamber President Lori Diver, "to have Baldwinsville recognized as a branded destination for carp angling, which ensures long-term economic growth for our community." More competitors plus more accessible spectator sights equals increased food consumption and tourism. Red Mill Inn co-owner Jake McKenna notes, "This year the anglers are reserving rooms for their spouses who want to be here to shop and enjoy the area during the tournament."

Spectators are welcome at several viewing areas. Lions Community Park and Mud Lock at Onondaga Park are two such locations. Look for large carp-shaped road signs to mark those areas or stop in at the Red Mill Inn for directions. In addition, **volunteers are needed** to weigh all those fish. Stop by the training session on Tues., May 13th, at 6 PM at the Red Mill. Who knows, you just might end up weighing fish for the winning team.

Wrapping up this explosion of carp interest, the community hosts a **celebration on Paper Mill Island**. There is no island admission fee. Beginning at **3 PM on May 17th**, kids will find a face-painter, fishing pond, opportunities to make crafts, a bouncy house, and the fire department's "Sparky." Families can preview the CNY Gem & Mineral Society and NYSDEC fisheries displays. Locals invite you to make merry with door prizes all afternoon, food, drink, and the **5 PM awards ceremony** followed at 6 PM by Kane and Kat Tale bands with **fireworks** ending the day's activity at **9:45 PM**.

"The Village decided to become a tournament co-sponsor again this year," added Baldwinsville Mayor Joe Saraceni, "showing we fully support the event and are seeing economic benefits to serving as its host. It's exciting to see so many coming back this year. This is an opportunity to showcase the village and upstate NY through international channels. One of the reasons this event was so successful last year was the participants' amazement and pleasure over their reception. We demonstrated the type of community we have. We're a very welcoming people. As far as carp angling goes, we are also a world class destination."

Learn about carp angling and check out the near real-time leader board during the tournament at acstournaments.com. Feel free to contact the Baldwinsville Chamber of Commerce 315-638-0550 or bchamber07@verizon.net for further information.

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