



NEW YORK STATE FAIR HONORED FOR PROMOTING HISTORY

New York State Fair honored for historic preservation efforts, announces new shipwrecks exhibit



2 HOURS AGO • [ROBERT HARDING | ROBERT.HARDING@LEE.NET](#)

The Great New York State Fair received an award Thursday from a central New York history group and announced a new exhibit that will make its debut at this year's fair.

At an event Thursday in Syracuse, the Onondaga Historical Association presented the OHA Medal — the organization's top honor — to state Agriculture Commissioner Richard Ball. The fair was recognized for its efforts aimed at promoting New York's history.

"As the oldest state fair in the United States, the Great New York State Fair itself is filled with rich history, and part of our job as administrators of the fair is passing down that history to others," Ball said in a statement. "We thank the Onondaga Historical Association for this great honor and look forward to doing our part to promote history once again at the 2014 Great New York State Fair."

In addition to the award, Ball and acting state fair director Troy Waffner announced that a new exhibit will be unveiled at this year's fair.

The exhibit, "Great Shipwrecks of New York's 'Great' Lakes," will highlight some of the shipwrecks found in New York's bodies of water. Several groups were involved in supporting the new exhibit, including NY Sea Grant and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail.

The shipwrecks exhibit will be located in a tent in the mini-state park near the Horticulture Building, according to fair officials. The exhibit will include a replica 18th century bateau, a boat that was used in the French and Indian War.

David White, a research specialist at NY Sea Grant and associate director at the Great Lakes Research Consortium, said the goal of the exhibit is to educate fairgoers about shipwrecks located throughout the state.

"Our 'Great Shipwrecks of NY's 'Great' Lakes' exhibit will highlight some of this history and bring New Yorkers back in time to when our waters were the most important transportation and strategic defense hubs in our entire nation," White said. "We want to take fairgoers on a journey through another place and time, and we can't wait to show you what's in store this summer."

Fair officials also touted other history-themed attractions and exhibits at the fair.

The History of the Fair exhibit, which was first unveiled in 2013, will return for its second year. More artifacts will be featured in this year's exhibit, including "tea time at noon at the Colonnade" photos.

Another exhibit at this year's fair will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Art and Home Center. The Art and Home Center hosts arts, crafts and food displays each year at the fair.

An interactive sandcastle will also be on display this year to show fairgoers what goes in to constructing the fair's annual sand sculpture, and the gift shop will sell several items, including a DVD featuring the story of the 1969 state fair.

This year's fair will run from Aug. 21 to Sept. 1.