

Foster Lake to open for summer season

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Foster Lake, a, 25-acre wilderness lake located atop Jericho Hill, about a five-minute drive from the Alfred University campus, will open for the season the weekend of June 17-18. A lifeguard will be on duty that weekend, and then full-time, seven days a week, beginning June 23-Aug. 26, said Cherise Haase, environmental health and safety coordinator for the University. An open house is planned for June 23, weather permitting. Access to the lake is restricted to those who purchase an access pass and their guests, Haase said. An application for an access pass is available at <http://www.alfred.edu/com...> Additional information is available at <http://www.alfred.edu/com...> Fees for Alfred University students are discounted. Prospective members may also obtain additional information on the access pass program by calling 607.871.2190 or by visiting Myers Hall Suite 117. Recreational activities, in addition to swimming, include fishing, bird-watching, canoeing and small craft sailing. Camping, picnicking, and hiking at Foster Lake are also permitted. Recreational trails, picnic areas and limited camping sites circle the lake on wooded trails. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) licensing requirements apply to those fishing at Foster Lake, said Haase, who reminds those planning to fish must carry their licenses. Eating fish that grow in Foster Lake is safe as long as they are properly cooked, she said, advising that those planning to consume fish check the state health department website for fish health advisories. <http://www.health.state.n...> "Alfred University takes great pride in assuring the safest environment for all our students, employees and visitors," said Haase. To comply with water quality standards set by the Allegany Department of Health and the DEC, the University is required to conduct weekly tests for water quality in swimming areas that are open to the public, such as Foster Lake. Haase said the weekly water quality testing would begin the first week in June. Should the water quality not meet standards set by the DEC and the county health department, the University will inform the public and all access pass holders via the Foster Lake Web page, the University Environmental Health and Safety Web page, the University's internal newsletter, and in the local media. Additionally, a sign will be posted at the entrance to Foster Lake.