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Watkins Glen's Green Grand Prix Celebrates Motoring Technology

Provided By Judy Stropus and Glenda Gephart

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (March 26, 2013) - The Toyota Green Grand Prix, a showcase of motoring technology that aims for a cleaner environment, is returning to the famed Watkins Glen International race course on April 19.

The single-day event will feature a two-stage, fuel-efficiency competition for pre-registered drivers of alternate-fueled vehicles, hybrids and traditional gasoline-powered and diesel-powered vehicles.

Individuals, colleges and universities, car clubs, dealerships and entrepreneurs are all invited to participate.

The list of entries includes Alfred State College, winner last year of the Auto Career Development Center Excellence in Innovation Award, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology, Michigan's St. Clair Community College and the Corning Inc. Clean-Air Technologies team.

Spectators will have an opportunity to meet the drivers of the cutting-edge vehicles, and educational talks and displays are planned.

Simultaneously, upwards of 10 high school teams will be vying in a NYElectrathon race.

No admission is charged for the Green Grand Prix, which launches season-opening weekend festivities at Watkins Glen International.

Entries in the rally are now being accepted through the Toyota Green Grand Prix website at www.greengrandprix.com. The deadline for entries is April 5.

More information about the NYElectrathon event is available at the website www.nyelectrathon.com.

Details about Watkins Glen International opening weekend activities can be found at www.theglen.com.

The diversity of the day's activities emphasizes the breadth of the goals of the Green Grand Prix.

"The mission of the Toyota Green Grand Prix is educational, to promote innovation in sustainable transportation technologies," said Bob Gillespie, chairman of the Green Grand Prix Corp., a non-profit organization. "We are proud that our event, in its ninth year, attracts students from universities, colleges and high schools. We want the Green Grand Prix to be a means of encouraging technology students to stay in the Northeast to help move our region to become a center for clean energy."

The Toyota Green Grand Prix's two-stage rally will offer up the challenges and excitement of driving on the race track and driving on open roads.

The first segment of the Doris Bovee Memorial Road Rally will be a 130-mile, fuel economy event completely on the 2.45-mile short course at WGI, which has hosted competitive racing events since 1957. The rally is open to all classes of road vehicles.

After a lunch break, the rally moves to public roads for 90 miles and another fuel economy run.

Both segments will be conducted at highway speeds.

“This year’s rally will offer competitors the opportunity to establish fuel economy records in various categories on a world famous racing venue and on the picturesque roads of the Finger Lakes,” Gillespie said.

The vehicles will be on display during the lunch break and after they return to the track in late afternoon.

Spectators will be able to view a wide variety of fuel-efficient vehicles powered by several different fuels including gasoline, biodiesel, hydrogen, propane and compressed natural gas. Many hybrids, plug-in hybrids and full electric vehicles are also expected.

The Doris Bovee Foundation is one of the Green Grand Prix’s long-time supporters, and the rally is dubbed the Doris Bovee Memorial Road Rally. The rally is sponsored by the Glen Region Sports Car Club of America and is the only official SCCA road rally of its kind in the nation.

Other important supporters of the Green Grand Prix are the International Motor Racing Research Center in Watkins Glen; Corning Enterprises of Corning, N.Y.; the Auto Career Development Center of Worcester, Mass.; and the Central New York Clean Cities Coalition based in Baldwinsville, N.Y.

The rally honors the memory of well-known area environmentalist Doris Bovee, who taught for many years in the Corning-Painted Post (N.Y.) school district and was known for her love of plants and birds. She also was involved with SCCA road rallies and was part of the Glen Region SCCA at its inception.



A 1933 Ford pickup truck powered by propane waits for the start of the Doris Bovee Memorial Road Rallies at the 2012 Toyota Green Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

