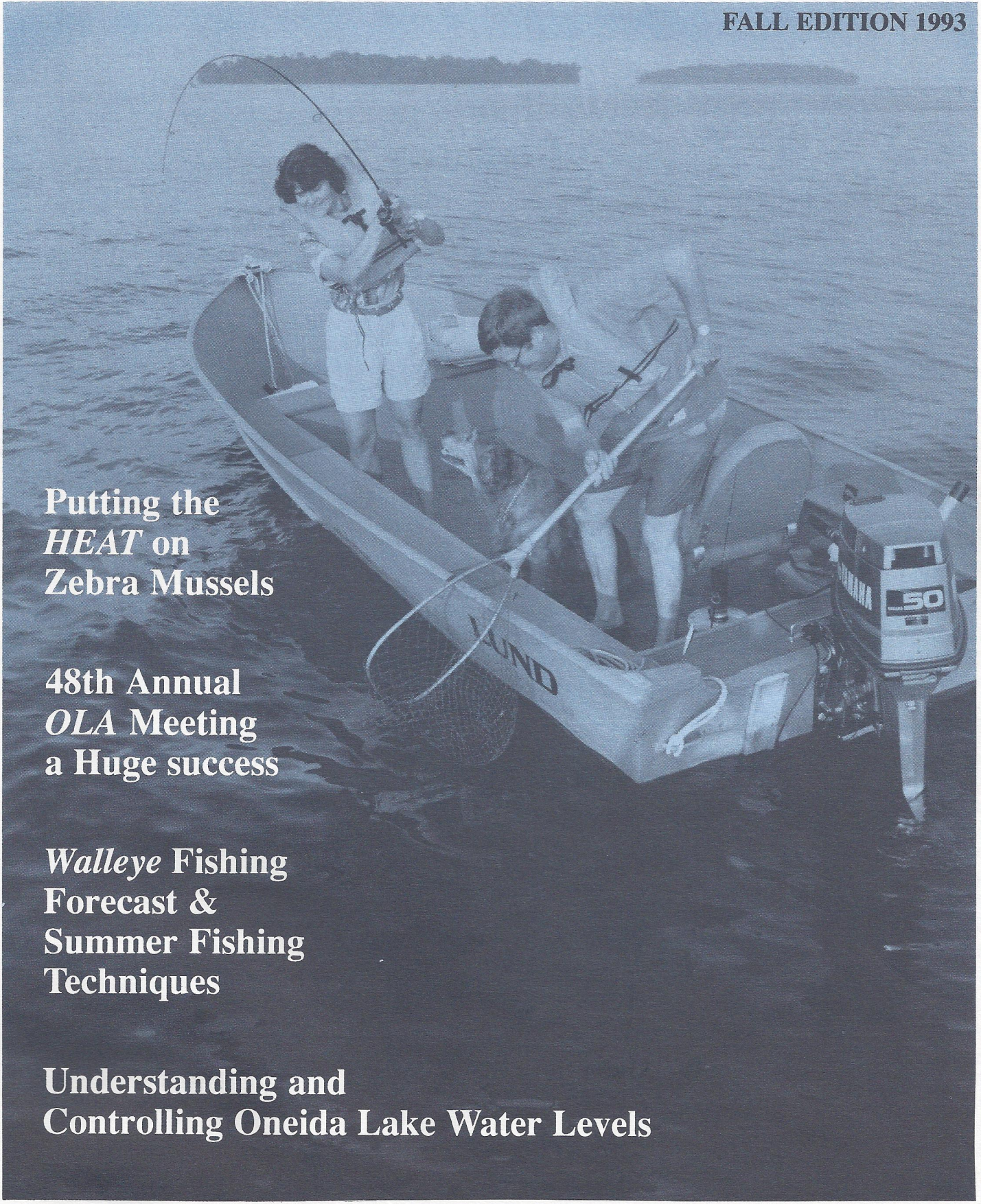


# *The Oneida Lake Bulletin*

FALL EDITION 1993



Putting the  
*HEAT* on  
Zebra Mussels

48th Annual  
*OLA* Meeting  
a Huge success

*Walleye* Fishing  
Forecast &  
Summer Fishing  
Techniques

Understanding and  
Controlling Oneida Lake Water Levels

# President's Report

*Oneida Lake Bulletin*

Fall 1993

Greetings, fellow OLA members. Since this is my first report to you as your organization's president, I would like to introduce myself and inform you of the issues I will request the Board of Directors to pursue during the upcoming year.

I have served on the OLA Board of Directors for nearly ten years and have been active in several OLA committees and issues affecting the Oneida Lake watershed. For those of you who know me, this probably comes as no surprise since my professional career is dedicated to improving and preserving the environment. I am employed as the Operations Manager for Onondaga County's Department of Drainage and Sanitation. My responsibilities include the administration of programs designed to reduce the level of pollutants entering the sewer system, optimizing the treatment process to prevent pollutants from being discharged to receiving waters. We monitor the effects of these activities on the water quality of Onondaga Lake and the Seneca River.

Since I first joined the OLA, its officers clearly and continually stated the importance of increasing the membership role. The Board of Directors has long understood that membership is the most important concern of the Association. Without the loyalty and support of its members, the OLA cannot fulfill its mission of protecting the lakes ecosystem and promoting the lake as one of New York State's premier recreational resources. An expanded OLA membership serves the best interests of all those who love the lake since a "bigger voice" (translation-greater number of members) is better heard by those involved in making decisions which will affect the future of the lake and therefore, lake users. Those of you who are long-time members know that the

Directors have continually encouraged and requested your help in recruiting new members through our efforts at the local sports shows, various articles in past Bulletins and presentations at our annual meetings. However, our efforts and pleas are being discounted by a large number of our members. Consider the following information as food for serious thought.

During the period from 1985 through 1990, the number of members dropped steadily and stabilized at approximately 4,000 members for the period from 1990 through 1993. Although our 1993 total is approximately the same as the previous three years, approximately 44 percent (1672 individuals) of the 1992 members did not renew their membership. The encouraging news is that the Board's efforts aimed at attracting new members is very successful. The bad news is that a large portion of our membership chose to no longer support the OLA. At an annual fee of only three (3) dollars per year, it is difficult to believe that the state of the economy plays any role in this. Therefore, the Director's have committed themselves to reversing this trend. Recent events have given some hope that certain members realize the importance of this issue. For instance, Charles Baker, a second place winner in the Cicero Lion's Club Fishing Derby, chose to sign up 35 new OLA members rather than accept his cash prize. Also, Dr. Charles Abate has penned an article to his fellow OLA members which will be included in an upcoming Bulletin. We are hopeful that each OLA member will react to the efforts of these individuals by taking an active role in expanding the membership. Remember, YOU...the members...are the OLA. Each one of you is a valued asset, and without you the success of the Association is compromised. The primary goal of my efforts as president will be to report in this space next year that we are retaining current

ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
FOUNDED IN 1945

Published by Oneida Lake Association, Inc., that its members may be informed regarding the activities of the Association. Oneida Lake Association, Inc., was organized in 1945 to restore and preserve the natural resources of Oneida Lake and its environs.

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members and welcoming new members to join us in protecting and promoting our lake.

*Joseph J. Mastriano*

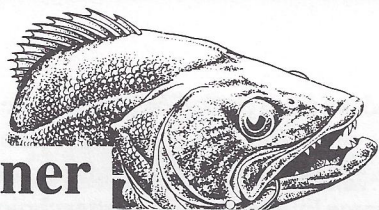
*OLA President*

## OLA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

For the past two years, the Oneida Lake Association has offered prizes to OLA members who place among the top finishers in the annual Cicero Lion's Club Derby as a means to sign-

*(continued on page 8)*

# The OLA Fishing Corner



## ONEIDA LAKE WALLEYE WINTER FISHING FORECAST

by Tom Chiotti

Senior Aquatic Biologist

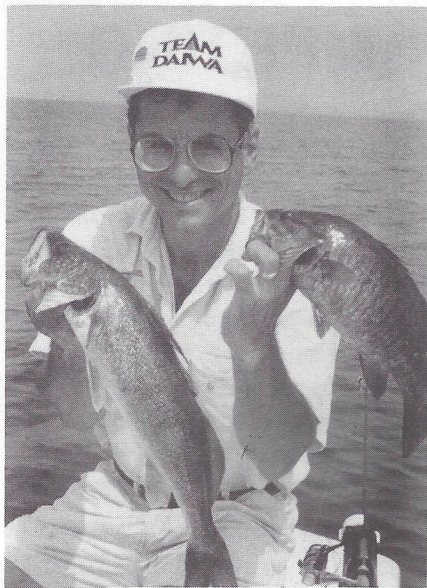
### Oneida Lake Anglers Enjoy Limit Catches!

by Capt. Tony Buffa

Same pond, same species, same anglers...*but what a different year!* In this case, "different" is spelled "GREAT". No, this is not walleye doublespeak. Just plain facts. **If you're not catching walleyes this season on Oneida Lake, then most likely you haven't been there.**

Yes, at times it's been that easy. **Just do it.** Like the ad says.

Whoa, did we need this season after the frustrations of '92; particularly the Spring and early Summer fishery of '92. During that time, walleyes, although plentiful in numbers certainly outwitted the outfitted for the vast part of May, June and early July. By August of '92 devout walleye trollers began to find willing walleyes, whereas the jigging and drifting community counted more minutes, hours and days than walleyes.



*Jim Sollecito, horticulturist & world traveled angler has a soft spot in his heart for Oneida Lake, particularly with quality fish like this 22 inch walleye and 17 inch smallmouth caught while with guide, Capt. Tony Buffa.*

Now why is it so "different" (great) this year? Food, it's as basic as that. In the absence of natural prey, (gizzard shad, perch fry, buckeyes) walleyes

become easy targets. Never mind the clear water, the zebra mussels, the calm weather, the...etc., an empty stomach is motivation enough for a walleye to violate the age old principles of walleye angling.

Walleyes are known for their nocturnal exploits and when they have a good night you can expect to have a bad day. It's a simple inverse relationship which fortunately is reversible. Bad night then good day. And this season walleyes are having very bad nights. *The lack of natural feed is keeping the walleyes on the prowl and lean.* This is one main reason why most anglers aren't finding the walleyes schooling for any length of time in any one area. With no concentrations of bait there is no holding power. The energy expended to find a meal is taking its toll on the biomass. I don't see much in the way of growth unless we get a miraculous appearance of baitfish.

For years, Oneida has had the reputation of being a lake of extremes and again this year is no exception. On the bright side, fishing will remain easy and without interruption right through the ice fishing season. The flip side of that is not so bright when you think of the possibility of stunted growth, cannibalism, and debilitated walleyes. Over the years, exactly eighteen if you count my charter seasons, I've seen Oneida bounce back from different forms of stress. Nature has its own way of filling a vacuum. Just what will be the new bait to replace what is missing? No one can say with certainty, but rest assured there will be a solution.

Angling opportunities should remain prime throughout the Fall season. Technique doesn't seem to matter; all methods are working equally as well. **So "gather ye walleyes while ye may."**

The winter of 1993-94 will likely produce some good to excellent walleye fishing. The main reason for this prediction is that the gizzard shad hatch was relatively small this year. *Walleyes will not be able to feed heavily on shad and store fat in their body cavity like some years.* When they store fat reserves, they will not feed as well during the winter months. The stage is set for anglers to harvest approximately one half of the adult walleyes in the lake between the May 1993 opener and closure of the season in mid-March 1994. Normally, when heavy exploitation like this occurs, the walleye population is reduced enough so that there is a reasonably good chance for a successful perch and walleye hatch the following spring. However, there was a very strong year class of walleyes established from the 1991 hatch. It is expected to contribute just over 400,000 adult fish to the population in 1995. Considering the adult population is normally about 500,000 fish, this will boost it markedly. The presence of this many relatively young fish in the population will decrease the chances for a successful hatch of perch and walleye in 1994. On the other hand, relatively young fish tend to feed quite heavily, possibly a physiological response to a need to grow large enough to become mature, produce young, and perpetuate the species.

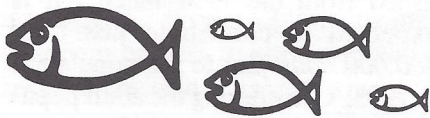
Looking ahead to the 1994 Spring and Summer season, there will be approximately 750,000 walleyes in the lake, *if we include the 1991 walleye hatch.* They will be able to effectively consume all but the largest of the shad hatch. This means that there is also a reasonably good chance for another good walleye fishing year. The thing to keep in mind is that should this be the case, the catch in general will be composed of a relatively high percentage of three year fish that may not be legal size yet.

# SUMMER TIME WALLEYE FISHING TECHNIQUES ON ONEIDA LAKE!

by Capt. Ray Brown

As most of you know, for the first few months of the season, walleyes tend to relate to the shallow bottoms of Oneida Lake. After the rigors of the spawning season, they gradually work their way to deeper depths.

These fish can be caught rather easily using *buck tail jigs* tipped with a piece of worm, or casting *floating style minnow lures* in shallow water at night and along shorelines when there is a good wave action from the wind. This pattern continues rather successfully until mid July. Suddenly, the technique that worked so well in May and June, no longer works! It's as if the "walleye developed lock-jaw." The general consensus being that "there is too much bait," or "the fish aren't hungry," or ...whatever!



But, have you noticed on the screen of your fish finder, that you're seeing a lot more "suspended" fish rather than being at the bottom. These fish are suspended because they're looking for food and chasing schools of bait fish. When the walleyes are suspended, it's very difficult to properly "present jigs or a drifted worm" at that particular level.

Over the past six years, I have devoted a lot of time on the different methods of trolling for walleyes on Oneida Lake. Due to space, this article will serve as a broad overview. Let's begin with a basic boat & motor. Size is not important, only that you are able to control its speed. A couple of five gallon pails with small holes in the bottom, will serve to slow down your boat. Trolling speed can vary from day-to-day, but generally speaking 2 MPH is a good starting point. Next on the list is rods & reels. A six and half or seven foot medium action

rod is a good choice. My preference is the seven foot rod. Spinning reels are acceptable, but a level wind reel, with a large line capacity is a better choice. This type reel will be more important when using the lead core line application. For fishing line, I use 10 lb. test **Berkeley Trilene XT**. My concern, when using heavier line, is not for line breakage as much as it is to reduce line stretch. My lure selection is fairly basic, with a preference to **Storm Jr. Thundersticks** and **Jointed Rapalas J9** and **J11**. The colors are blue/chrome or silver, rainbow trout, fire tiger and chartreuse. Because the walleye seem to prefer a smaller style bait or lure and...the action these lures display, you will need to use a method of putting the lure at the depth the fish are feeding. For flat lining, I use a couple of different techniques. The first is a little diver disk called "**Big Jon**" mini disk. This offers very little resistance when bringing in a fish. This will dive to 30 foot depths when used with 75 feet of line. These disks can be adjusted to dive out & away from your boat also. My other choice is *Lead Core Line*, in either 17 or 27 lb. test attached to a 50 foot leader using a nail knot. This line has a color change every 30 feet. For every color that's in the water, you can expect a 5 foot drop in lure position...*trolling at 2 MPH*. If you elect to run side planers, then you must splice the Lead Core into and between your present monofilament line. I normally use reels with 3, 4 and 5 colors of Lead Core, with the 4 and 5 colors being the most productive.

There are two different ways to go as far as planer boards are concerned. I prefer the full size boards and recommend **Super Ski**, which are made here in Syracuse. They work very well, even in heavy seas, and will handle any gear you may need for walleye. The other choice would be small in-line planers like the **Wile board** or **Cannon Rovers**. These work good on small boats or if you happen to be fishing alone.

The final item I would use is the

downrigger. If you want to try your luck in the deeper waters east of Cleveland, NY, start off with a less expensive hand-crank model. Long leader lengths from the release to the lure appear to work better. Try 100 to 150 feet of leader. An excellent release is the **Blacks Downrigger Release**. When adjusted properly, it will give consistent releases, even with 9 inch fish!

To summarize, when you find a school of fish, the fish that appear higher in the water column tend to be more active. Vary the depths of your lures until you find the "magic spot." Try trolling in "S" patterns, and if you catch more fish on the outside rods, then increase your trolling speed on the straight troll. If you catch more fish on the inside rods, then decrease your speed on the straight troll. So the next time your "out on the lake" and the fish aren't jumping in the boat...**TRY TROLLING!**

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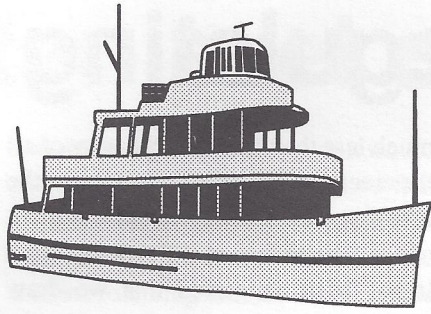
## OLA HOLDS 48th ANNUAL MEETING

by Tony Buffa

On April 21, the Oneida Lake Association held its 48th annual meeting at the Henninger High School auditorium, in Syracuse, NY. Approximately 800 members were in attendance. This year's meeting spotlighted the construction of the new Constantia Walleye Hatchery.

**Richard Colesante**, regional director of hatcheries, with the help of a slide presentation, took those in attendance through the physical layout of the new facility. He indicated that a target of 200,00 fingerlings, (four to five inch) walleyes could be anticipated by Fall. It appears that this goal is on schedule; and that some of our tired walleye fisheries throughout the state will be getting their first good shot in the arm in a long time. **Tom Chiotti**, a DEC senior aquatic biologist from region 7, gave a report

(continued on page 8)



## "Get the Hull Away"

An Associated Press Reprint

This is the fiery message to mussels sent by Ken Fischer, an inventor from Pittsburgh, PA. Ken has developed a new, experimental marine paint made with red peppers that is presently being tested by the Navy. This paint is so hot it will blister fingers. More important, it will prevent mussels and barnacles from attaching themselves to boats, buoys and intake pipes.

At a party a few years ago, Ken bit into a deviled egg doused with Tabasco sauce. "I swore my mouth was on fire, I had tears and everything", Fischer said "I got to thinking that this is what I'm looking for."

To make **Barnacle Ban**, Fischer mixed oil from cayenne peppers with an epoxy-based paint. The oil is about six times hotter than red pepper found in the grocery store - so hot that a drop diluted 250,000 times with water will still set your mouth on fire.

"When barnacles or zebra mussels get on it, they get right off because it attacks the nervous system and sends pain messages," Fischer said.

The Navy uses a copper-based paint to repel barnacles. It is effective but toxic, killing all marine organisms that come into contact with it. A spokesman for the Navy, which is testing Barnacle Ban at a shipyard in Charleston, S.C., said he thinks it has potential. The peppery paint is environmentally safe, which should help it win approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, said Jon Luikart, director of vendor certification for McCormick & Co. The spice company is supplying the pepper.

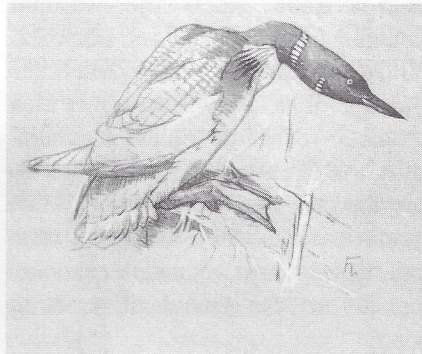
## BIRDS OF ONEIDA LAKE

### Common Loon *Gavia immer immer*

by: Robert Gang

Every spring, Oneida Lake residents are treated to a parade of migrating waterfowl. While I enjoy seeing the hooded, red-breasted and common Mergansers, Buffle-heads, Scaup and American golden-eyes, my favorite visitor is the common Loon.

While I've never heard its loud shrill cry on Oneida Lake, just seeing the Loon on a misty spring morning 70 yards off of shore gives the feel of a secluded bay on a lake in the north woods.



A large bird, the Loon can be up to 32 inches long with a 32 inch wingspan. The common Loon is easily distinguished from the Mergansers with which it may be confused, by its long straight heavy black bill, black head and neck with greenish gloss, and black back checked with white.

In the past, before the advent of motorboats, it was common for migrating Loons to linger on Oneida Lake until the end of May. About the only good thing that I can say about the spring flood of '93 is that we were able to enjoy the extended stay of 5 Loons that spent a lot of time foraging for minnows and shrimp in front of my house. These Loons stayed in the area longer than usual this year because of the boat moratorium that was in effect during early May. I never thought about it before, but I believe that the Loons move on to their breeding grounds on opening day of wall-eye season.

The Atlas of Breeding Birds in N.Y.S. shows that in 1986, there was possible breeding in North Bay, N.Y. Loons usually lay their two eggs close to the waters edge in late May or early June. I have been informed that a pair was sighted in Briggs Bay as late as the 1st week of June.

Its possible that these birds were breeding in this area. On the other hand, the Adirondacks are only a few hours away as the Loon flies. This pair may have been seen during their last few days on the lake. I would be interested in hearing any reports of Loons seen this summer.

The Loons nest of loose plant material is built close to the waters edge as this bird is practically helpless on land. Its strong powerful legs are set so far back on its body that the Loon is unable to walk. However, this arrangement allows the Loon to swim very fast for long distances underwater in search of fish. One study states that a fish was taken from a net placed 200 feet under the water.

The two eggs are dark brown spotted with black, are 3.5 inches long and 2.2 inches wide. Incubation starts when the first egg is laid and lasts about 29 days by both the female and the male.

The young are covered with dark gray down when hatched and are able to eat whole fish and crustaceans when only 1 day old. They are able to swim within a few days and sometimes will ride on the back of the parent. Adult plumage is attained after 3 years.

If you are out boating in the spring and see some Loons on the water, please admire them from a distance. They are shy birds and will move on north to their nesting grounds if harassed. While they do eat some of our fish, they are worthy of every protection for the feeling of wilderness that they give to the lake in the spring.

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### Look For...

"Oneida Lake's Most Precious Resource," written by an OLA member, Charles J. Abate in the next Bulletin.

# Maintaining and regulating the

The New York State Canal Corporation is responsible for maintaining the level of Oneida Lake for canal operation during the navigation season. The canal is usually open to navigation from the first week in May until the last week in November. As soon as the canal navigation buoys are removed from the lake for the winter, all gates in Caughdenoy Dam are opened wide and the resulting outflow from Oneida Lake is uncontrolled.

Much of the criticism and dissatisfaction over water level control results from a lack of knowledge of how the Canal Corporation operates the control dam at Caughdenoy. The regulation of the lake level is comparatively simple. All we attempt to do during the canal navigation season is try to balance the amount of water flowing out of the lake against the water flowing into the lake. If the lake becomes too high, the gate openings in the Caughdenoy Taintor Gate Dam are increased to allow more

water to flow out of the lake; if the lake level drops too rapidly, the gates are closed down to reduce the outflow.

In the event of heavy rains, the Canal Corporation can draw water out of the lake and attempt to keep the proper level. If the summer is unusually wet, more water enters the lake than can be released even with the Caughdenoy Dam wide open. Under such conditions the lake level will rise. Inversely, during a very dry summer, such as this summer, the lake level will drop as more water evaporates out of the lake than enters it.

We have no control over the inflow to Oneida Lake except the minimal amounts from lockages at Lock 22. With a watershed of 1275 square miles draining into a lake with a surface area of about 78 square miles, a general rainstorm of an inch or more falling on saturated ground, such as we had this spring, can raise the lake more than a foot literally over night. The channel capacity of the Oneida River is so

much less than the total capacity of all the creeks and brooks draining into the lake that we cannot drain the water out of the lake as fast as it flows in.

It has been suggested that we draw from the lake in anticipation of heavy rains. There are many problems here. It is virtually impossible to secure accurate predictions of rain fall locations and amounts. Secondly, any forecast that we can get that include quantity estimates are so imminent that we don't have time to lower the lake more than an inch or so before the rains arrive. Since we have no way of feeding water into the lake, we cannot pull the lake below the minimum level required for operation unless there is enough inflow so that we can reduce the outflow and refill to the proper elevation.

Suggestions that we drop the lake a foot or two feet, during navigation season to allow for the variations in level caused by wind cannot be allowed.

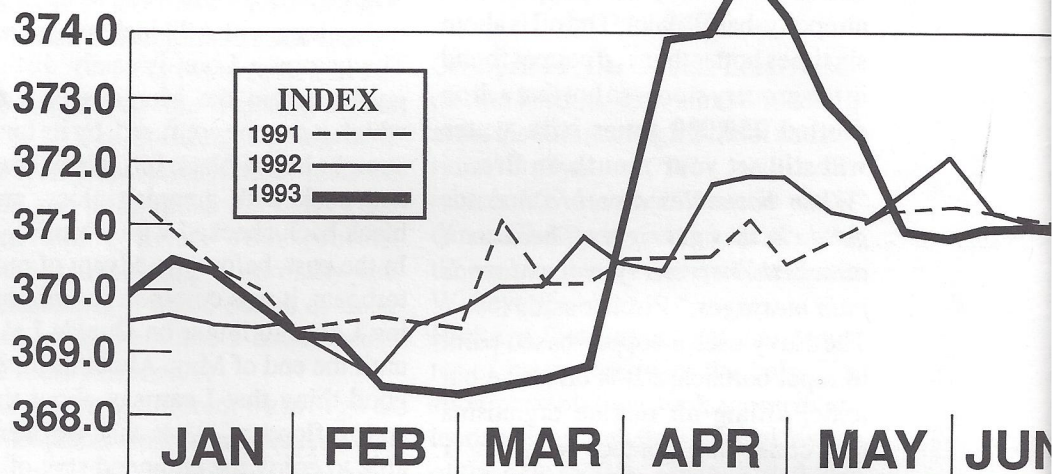
## Oneida Lake Water Regulations

by Patrick A. Leone, Jr.

As most of our members are aware, the flooding during the spring of 1993 continues to raise questions about the depths that Oneida Lake is maintained at during the winter months. Currently, there has been some discussions relative to lowering the depth of the lake, during the winter months, by as much as another two feet. Obviously, your OLA Board does not support this thought process for a number of reasons, however the lake user should realize the impact, should such a drastic measure to control spring flooding ever be employed. *Just think for a minute*, if you will, that those bays that currently hold a mere two feet of water during the winter would literally be dry. The bay bottoms would most likely freeze killing all plant and wildlife normally sustaining life in their bottoms. Also, how about those shoals that are often lurking two to three feet under the lake surface during the summer. Well with an additional two

feet of drawdown coupled with the normal two feet of drawdown that currently exists, one would find these rocky shoals just waiting for boaters and snowmobilers. Lastly, please consider the problems if the winter snowmelt and spring rains were not put into place, by Mother Nature, to refill the lake in the spring. This drought condition surely would put a damper on the recreational activities that Oneida Lake had to offer in the months of May

and June. Now with those thoughts in mind, please refer to the chart depicted above. This chart has been presented so that the lake levels, during the course of the year, can be easily compared from year to year. The left hand column 368, 369, etc. is feet above sea level that our lake is maintained. The bottom line is the months of the year. As you can see, the Thruway Authority seemed to be adequately preparing the lake to receive a



# water level of ONEIDA LAKE !

Dropping the level to this extent would almost put all Marinas and the new fish hatchery out of business. It would certainly hamper the local economy of the area surrounding Oneida Lake. In the long-run it would not benefit the property owners along the lake. A drop of that magnitude on a shallow lake would extend beach fronts. Residents would move out onto the newly formed land only to have the same problems and complaints reoccur.

The effects of storms, strong winds and heavy wave action on the shore of the lake are transient, and have no bearing on the regulation of the water level. These are natural phenomena and conditions that are typical and experienced along the shores of all large lakes. The created problems are individual and require personal attention.

The regulation of Oneida Lake water levels as simply outlined above is not done blindly, capriciously, arbitrarily

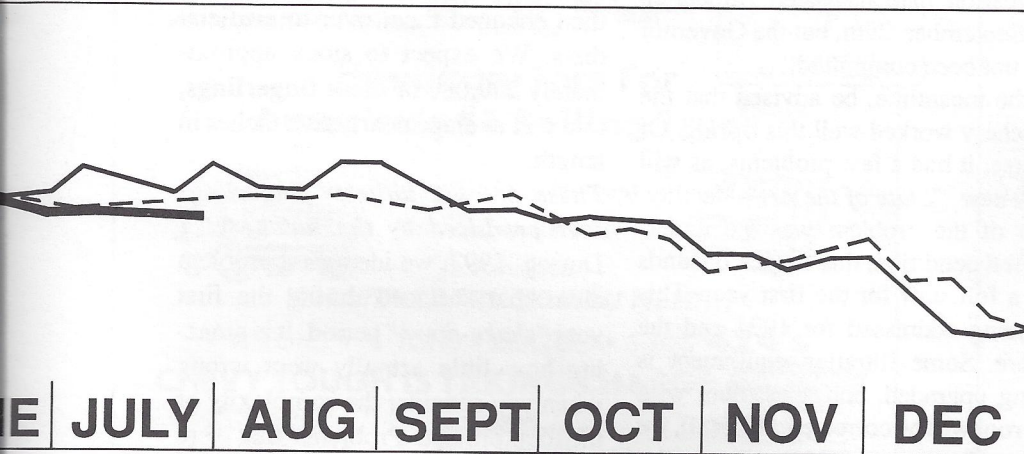
or in any happenstance manner. The theory of lake level regulation, as has been noted, is fairly simple; however, its actual practice is complex and difficult. It is a continuing exercise of judgement in balancing the interrelationships of a great many weather unknowns and variables over the Oneida Lake watershed.

A comprehensive study of Oneida Lake water levels, rain and snowfall in the lake's drainage area along with rain and snow melt runoff, over a period of many years, led to the development of an "Oneida Lake Regulation Curve." This curve, with current weather data, water level gage readings, and past knowledge and experience is used to predict and control the water level conditions in the lake. However, to reiterate, this is done only during the Canal Navigation season. It must be remembered that the Caughdenoy Dam is open full from about the first week in December to the middle of April or later.

Theoretically, the Oneida Lake Regulation Curve calls for, on June 1, a water elevation of 371.0+ and maintaining the water level smoothly so that it does not drop below this elevation through August 31. The lake is then gradually lowered through the end of the navigation season at which time the gates at Caughdenoy are opened full. The actual control of the lake water level during this period varies somewhat from the theoretical curve. Water elevation charts plotted from readings during this period for any year will show water elevations slightly above and below the "straight line regulation" of the theoretical curve depending on weather conditions.

Whenever weather conditions over the Oneida Lake drainage area permit, we keep the lake between 371.0 and 371.2 in accordance with this rule curve or guide.

**John Zmarthie**  
*Division Canal Engineer*



dramatic runoff from the unusually high snow accumulations during our 1992-93 winter. This runoff coupled with the extremely high volume of spring rain was a recipe for flooding no matter what preparation and planning were installed.

The lake influent and effluent waters are generally under natural conditions from December through March. This means a drawdown begins in October, reaches its lowest natural level with all gates at the

dam open in December. The lake level from this point forward is dependent on rainfall and winter snowmelt which generates the water that is normally entering the lake. Again, the norm is to close off the locks, starting in the beginning of March allowing the lake to begin recovering water slowly. This activity is evident on the chart.

If you glance at the chart, one can immediately see that Oneida Lake was at its

lowest level in February and March of 1993. *In fact, this level was lower than it had been in at least the last two years.* These levels were achieved in preparation for heavy runoff from the spring thaw, by simply not closing off any of the open gates at the dam. Unfortunately, there are no controls to recover from an immense winter snowfall thaw, compounded by a severe and devastating spring rainfall in the amount that happens once in every 500 years. *Certainly, by reviewing the chart you would have to agree that the Agency at the throttle of the Oneida Lake water level, did all they could... and Oneida Lakes ability to drain did the rest.* Now that you have a basic understanding of the conditions resulting in the spring flood, **YOU be the judge!**

Should we lower our lake level even more than we do now?

Should Oneida Lake be the holding basin for the entire drainage system?

Do we proceed with business as normal, which involves protecting Oneida Lakes ecosystem and recreational values?

## 48th ANNUAL OLA MEETING

(continued from page 4)

on the status of Yellow Perch, Wall-eye and Gizzard Shad.

Fundamentally, the Gizzard Shad were preyed upon heavily last Fall by foraging walleyes and took another hit with Winter stress through the ice season. The walleye population is stable with a bumper crop coming from the '91 year class. It takes four years for an Oneida Lake walleye to reach 15 inches. There appears to be a small increase in the Yellow Perch population, but their future is tenuous at best.

Dr. Ed Mills, from the Shackleton Point field station, addressed the implications of Zebra Mussels, their impact on the freshwater clam population, and their ability to consume algae. He indicated that the mussels are changing the ecosystem and pose serious challenges for the next decade.

Special remembrances were paid to **Wally Ainsworth**, **Irv Downing** and **Bill Merchant** for their service and dedication to the OLA.

May they truly rest in peace and always be remembered.

The annual Conservationist of the Year Award went to **Earl Pearson**, who received the same honor 30 years ago. He is the first member and board of director to ever receive the award twice. *I would like to take this opportunity to thank our speakers and all who helped make this annual Oneida Lake Association Event a success.*



## OLA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(continued from page 2)

up new members. This past year, the OLA itself was a winner when long-time member Carl Baker of Oneida River Park Drive decided that he would prefer signing-up new members rather than receiving a monetary prize.

On behalf of the OLA, and with "special thanks" to Carl, we welcome the 35 NEW members whose names we have listed below:

<b>Eddie Ashley</b>	<b>Dick Bronner</b>
<b>Norma Auffhammer</b>	<b>Ray Caldwell</b>
<b>Jon Besemer</b>	<b>Jason Casertano</b>
<b>Tom Bronner</b>	<b>Kristen Cuellar</b>

<b>Dan Damanski</b>	<b>Kurt Paulson</b>
<b>Manny DeCastro</b>	<b>Laura Precourt</b>
<b>Dick Fien</b>	<b>James Root</b>
<b>Frank Francis</b>	<b>Carol Scala</b>
<b>Frank M. Garafalo</b>	<b>Cliff Scott</b>
<b>Andy Hartung</b>	<b>Robert Shuster</b>
<b>Bill Hooper</b>	<b>Wendell Tucker</b>
<b>Thomas Humbach</b>	<b>Stephen VanSkiver</b>
<b>James Killian</b>	<b>Frank Volcko</b>
<b>Art Kimball</b>	<b>Paul Volcko</b>
<b>Joseph W. Lasinski</b>	<b>William Ward</b>
<b>Joe Long</b>	<b>Bernet Wimmer</b>
<b>John R. Marsh</b>	<b>Bob Woodrome</b>
<b>Tony Mazza</b>	

## The Oneida Lake Hatchery Update

Our New Hatchery has been working! But let's update the name right now. It will be officially known as the "*Oneida Fish Cultural Station*." *Isn't that nice?* I guess it is a good formal name for Albany, and for literature, etc. But, for all of us Oneida Lake Association members, it is *still* The Hatchery, and probably always will be.

A formal dedication was scheduled for August 13th, and it was all set to happen, *but*, and I will take the blame for this, we asked the Governor to attend the dedication. He said "Yes, but I cannot make the 13th". We asked that he set a date. As of now, the *new* dedication date has been firmed up for September 29th, but the Governor has not been committed.

In the meantime, be advised that the Hatchery worked well this Spring. Of course, it had a few problems, as will any new "State of the Art" facility. Part of the problem was the understaffed condition, due to lack of funds for a full staff for the first year. This is being addressed for 1994 and the future. Some filtration equipment is being upgraded, and a problem with the roof will be corrected. All in all, we have a fine new hatchery, one we can feel proud to see on the shores of Oneida Lake....*one we helped to make possible.*

We still plan to have O.L.A. members as official Tour Guides for the egg-taking and hatching activity each year. To receive an application, send your request to: **Robert R. Ripberger**,  
**121 Cortland Place**  
**Syracuse, NY 13207**

## FIRST YEAR PRODUCTION FROM THE NEW ONEIDA FISH CULTURAL STATION

by **Richard T. Colesante**

Senior Aquatic Biologist - NYSDEC

Production at the new Oneida Fish Cultural Station went very well during 1993. *It is hard to believe that only one production season was lost during construction.* The walleyes in the spring were very cooperative and we netted **40,000 fish in about 9 days!**



From these fish, we collected over **350 million eggs** and stocked over **150 million fry**; Oneida Lake was stocked with **102 million walleye fry**. Walleye fingerling culture was quite successful as well. This hatchery fed the fish, brine shrimp for 50 days and then changed them over to artificial diets. We expect to stock approximately **200,000 of these fingerlings**, that will average nearly five inches in length.

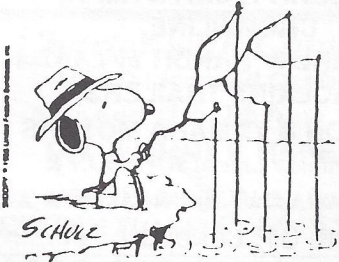
*These are the largest fingerlings ever produced by the hatchery!*

During 1993, we identified problem areas that surfaced during the first year "shake-down" period. It is amazing how little actually went wrong when you consider the complexity of the total project. Problems that were identified can all be corrected or managed around.

We have an excellent crew working at the hatchery, and this year has been a learning experience for us all. Wall-eye fisherman using Oneida Lake, and other State waters, can rest assured they have a fully-functional hatchery that will be working to improve and maintain walleye populations.



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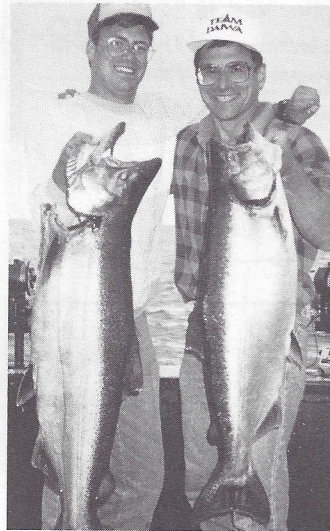
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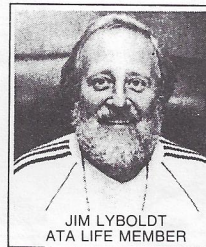
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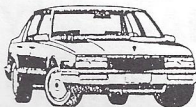
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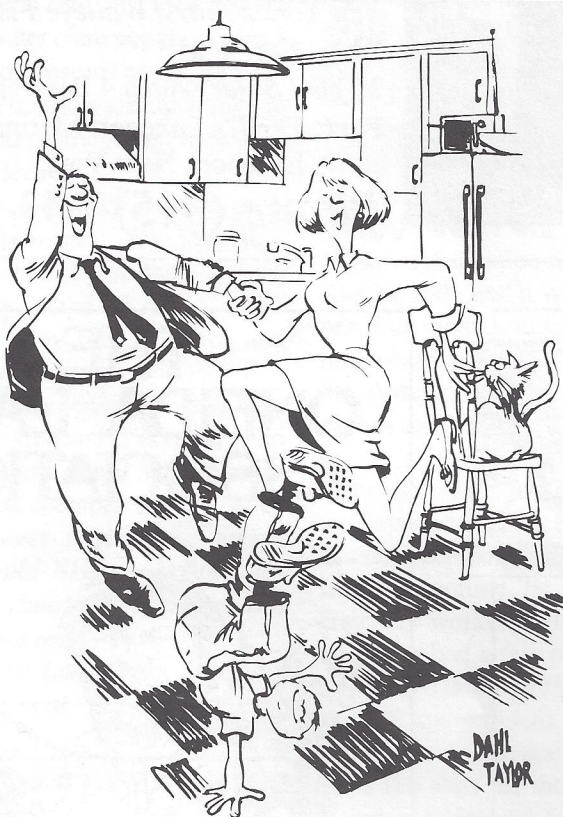
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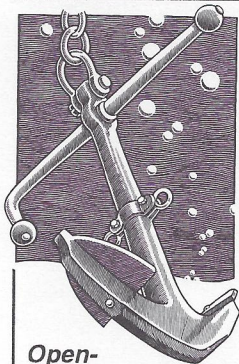
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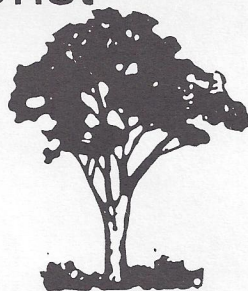
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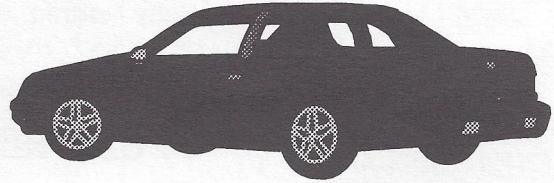
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