



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!



**Save the Date!!
OLA's Annual Meeting is
Back!**

For the past few weeks, the OLA Board of Directors has been working to provide our members with an Annual Meeting, despite pandemic restrictions.

We remain confident that we can bring you an on-line meeting on April 28 at 7:00 pm. **Mark your calendars!**

Our current plan is to hold a meeting using Zoom and Youtube. Our goal is to make the event as accessible as possible for all of you.

Although the format of the meeting will be different, the substance will remain familiar to our members.

Our goal for the evening's agenda includes reports and remarks on the following topics:

- Fish Hatchery Report
- Oneida Fisheries Report
- Law Enforcement on Oneida Lake
- Cormorant Control
- Proposed Regulatory Changes from DEC
- OLA's 76th Conservationist of the Year Award
- And, of course, the required reports from our Officers.

We will also include a drawing for a Kayak as well as a Go Pro

Camera! Be sure to attend the event to become eligible!

Your Host for the evening will be Captain Tony Buffa, who promises that that the 75 +1 Celebration will be a great catch.

How to Watch OLA's Virtual Annual Meeting

Do you want a preview of the Association's history-making, first-ever Virtual Annual Meeting? Then head out today to

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGcq6Q9wMe7gNI5QjWt-PWA>

You will be able to see a preview of the upcoming virtual meeting, and learn how to use the link above to watch our upcoming live stream that will be held on Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

Bookmark the link today so that you have it in advance of April 28. We'll also be posting updates there as we get closer to the meeting. Thanks for your patience as we learn how to use this live stream technology.

See you at the meeting!

Updates from the DEC Fish Hatchery in Constantia

In a recent Zoom call with Bill Evans, Director of the fish hatchery in Constantia, the OLA Board learned of the progress of the spring walleye egg harvest. Bill told us that they gathered and fertilized millions of eggs. How many millions? Tune in to our Annual Meeting to find out!

Updates on the Oneida Fishery from Cornell Researchers

On the same call, Randy Jackson, a researcher at Cornell University, told us that their data indicate that the adult walleye population is still over one million. Find out about his interpretation of these data at our Annual meeting!

Lake Clean-up!

Our annual Spring Highway Clean up of the Bartel Road on-ramp area will take place on Friday, April 23rd. This event is open to all. Please be advised to dress appropriately for the weather conditions, and wear boots. Hard hats and florescent vests are provided. Trash bags are also provided and a limited supply of "picking tools" as well.

DEC Fishing Regulations

Be sure to keep up with the latest rules and regs for your freshwater fishing outings. Those of you who fish our streams for trout will find that regulations have changed. For the complete guide, go to:



https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/fishguide.pdf

Kill Switch

Speaking of regulations, under a new federal law effective April 1, 2021, those piloting boats less than 26 feet in length are required to use their engine cut-off switches (ECOS) much of the time, if such a switch is installed by the manufacturer. That means wearing a lanyard—aka ECOS link—while at the wheel. (Formerly referred to as, “kill switches,” the term engine cut-off switch, or ECOS, is the preferred nomenclature, whether referring to engine-cut-off switches operated by a physical lanyard or any of several electronic solutions.)

Specifically, Section 8316 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 passed by Congress requires individuals operating recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length with an engine capable 3 horsepower or more to use ECOS links. However, this law applies when the primary helm is not in a cabin and when the boat is operating on plane or above displacement speed. Situations in which an ECOS link would not be required include docking, launching and loading on a trailer, trolling and operating in no-wake zones.

For complete information go to:

<https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-devices.php>

Bald Eagles

In our last e-news, we asked readers to tell us about their Bald Eagle sightings on Oneida Lake. Long time OLA member, James Killino, writes:



"This picture was taken last summer while taking a boat ride at the mouth of Fish Creek, with my wife, daughter and son-in-law. We were very impressed. It was beautiful to see. We parked the boat and watched it for several minutes till it went to another hunting spot.

I have been a member for many years, great organization."

If you spot an eagle or two, please let us know by writing to us at president@oneidalakeassociation.org. Tell us a little bit about this experience. What were your thoughts when you saw it? Did you share the experience with others? It would be great to hear what this sighting means to you personally. With your permission, we'll share your brief anecdotes in our future newsletters. And, of course, if you can snap a great picture, send that, too.

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Send your questions and opinions to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida

Lake environment.



[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

[Report environmental violations.](#)

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!