



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

OLA's First-Ever *Virtual* Annual Meeting

Social distancing rules have forced volunteer organizations to get creative and find new ways to get their work done in 2020 and 2021. The Oneida Lake Association is no exception. Fortunately, OLA rose to the occasion, as evidenced by our successful, first-ever virtual annual membership meeting on April 28.

The Board's Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Director Tony Buffa, organized a Zoom meeting that was broadcast live to the public via YouTube. OLA salutes our presenters from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell University, who did a great job presenting topics that will be familiar to any longtime OLA member: Fish population status, operations at the Oneida Hatchery, a preview of potential fishing regulation changes, cormorant management news, and the latest on lake-focused law enforcement. They gave concise presentations and entertained a lively Q-and-A with the virtual audience.

About 100 people viewed the meeting live, and another 220 (and counting) have viewed the recording, so the total audience to date has been slightly larger than the turnout for our usual in-person meetings. Local sportsmen's clubs have also been screening the recording for their members to keep them informed about the latest Oneida Lake news—a new twist on outreach and collaboration.

For any member who is interested, OLA has re-posted links to the meeting recording and several of our speakers' presentations on our Web site, <http://oneidalakeassociation.org>. Specific links are as follows:

Meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/p2AQ2UQNvda?t=37>

Downloadable hatchery report:

http://oneidalakeassociation.org/04_28_21%20Hatchery%20Report%20Slides.pptx

Downloadable fishery report:

http://oneidalakeassociation.org/04_28_21%20Cornell%20slides.ppt

Downloadable cormorant program report:

http://oneidalakeassociation.org/04_28_21%20cormorant%20update%20slides.pptx

We look forward to resuming our in-person meetings as soon as we can. In the meantime we welcome our members' feedback on this year's meeting. If you have any questions or comments, reach out directly at president@oneidalakeassociation.org.



Winner Winner!

Congratulations to Kevin Nuzzo as the recent winner of a kayak from the OLA. Kevin won the drawing during the OLA Virtual Annual Meeting. He is pictured here with his wife (far left), and Director Greg Keener (far right). Many thanks to Gander Mountain for the donation of the kayak.

Congratulations also to Robert Modlo who won the Capture Cam in our drawing.

OLA Confers its Prestigious Award

Congratulations to Scott Shupe on being named OLA's 2021
Conservationist of the Year!

Scott (on the left) is seen here discussing his award with Director Matt Snyder.



Water Chestnut Weed Pulls

Water Chestnuts are an invasive species that threaten the long-term health of our lake. Two OLA Directors, Patricia Cerro-Reehil and Carl Ford, have organized a pair of weed pulls for June 19. We are pleased to have support from the Finger Lakes Institute for these events. We would also urge our OLA members to help out. It's a fun time, with a worthwhile outcome!

There is a pull on the North Shore on Shaw Road. On the South Shore, we will pull weeds at the Oneida Bay Marina.

Both events will start at 9 a.m.
Come join us!



Tom Giufre Retires from the OLA Board

Long time Board member, Tom Giufre, has decided to step down from his role on the OLA Board. Pictured here (on the right) Tom greets Senator John DeFrancisco at our Networking Meeting a few years back

**Director George Reck offers these thoughts
on behalf of the entire Board.**

"I will miss Tom's presence primarily at our meetings and various endeavors because he has been a close friend. Since recruiting me as a director over eight years ago, Tom has been with me as my personal "OLA historian" and advice giver. Tom has steadfastly assisted me without reservation with many duties ranging from the highway cleanup effort, OLA sign maintenance, annual meeting prize distribution, the Networking Cookout, and more importantly as my "right hand man" helping to process the OLA membership renewals each spring. Simply put, what Tom has unselfishly provided me in these efforts has made not only getting them done possible, but also made the process an enjoyable one. I will certainly miss Tom's help, dependability, and especially his walleye fishing tips. Best of luck Tom! May you have many more great walleye chasing seasons ahead of you!"

Cove Road Update

Jana Lantry, from the DEC, reports that The Joint Permit Application for the Cove Road project, near Sylvan Beach, has been submitted. The Contract Plans are in final review. She states that "The project can go out to bid as soon as we receive the Corp permit. All great news for the Cove Rd Boat Launch Site!"



Bald Eagles

We have asked our readers to send us pictures of their Bald Eagle sightings on or around Oneida Lake. Here are some striking photos from Bob and Louise Asmus, long-time OLA members. Bob explains that the eagle landed on shore with a fish. After eating some of it, the eagle took his dinner to an elevated dining area to finish the meal!

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 \(1-844-332-3267\)](tel:1-844-DEC-ECOS)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

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