



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

Annual Meeting
April 27, 2022
Save the Date!



One more reminder: The OLA Board of Board of Directors will resume our Annual Membership Meeting by providing for an in-person component! Millard Hawk Elementary School (in Central Square) has graciously agreed to host our in-person meeting. We hope that you will come out to join us.

We will also have an on-line component, the same as last year. We will provide log-in details on our website.

Most importantly, we have a terrific line-up scheduled for you. Once again, OLA Director, Captain Tony Buffa will serve as your MC. From there we have a variety of informative speakers.

Agenda

7:00 Welcome
7:05 Business Meeting
Treasurer's report Lance Vella/Kurt Snyder
Membership report Bruce Schantz
President's Report John Harmon

**QUESTIONS WILL FOLLOW
AT THE END OF EACH PRESENTATION**

7:20 Oneida Fish Cultural Station Update
Manager—Bill Evans

7:35 Shackleton Point Fisheries Report

Coordinator of Oneida Lake Fisheries Tony Van de Valk

7:50 Law Enforcement on Oneida Lake

Update from 2021 and expectations for 2022

DEC Division of Law Enforcement Region 7—Captain Jim Boylan

8:05 Introduction: DEC Region 7 Fisheries Manager

Scott Prindle

8:20 Current Status of Cormorant Control

DEC Bureau Wildlife Chief—Jim Farquhar

8:35 Oneida Lake Fishery Regulation changes

DEC Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries—Steve Hurst

8:50 OLA 77th Conservationist of the Year Award

Matt Snyder

9:00 Drawings for Kayak and AKASO WiFi Action Camera

One from Zoom attendance, other from membership at large

It's April 27!

It's going to be a Bigger and Better Meeting, hosted by our esteemed Director, Captain Tony Buffa!

Madison County's Watershed Protection Alliance

The Madison County Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance is yet another partner in the stewardship of Oneida Lake and its tributaries. Their recent report states that “These water resources [including Oneida Lake] form the basis for many important . . . recreation opportunities which include boating, fishing, swimming, hunting, trapping, bird watching, and other forms of outdoor activities. These water resources also provide many other important functions including serving as water supplies for both people and livestock.”

This Watershed Protection agency identified threats to the watershed such as excessive sedimentation, aquatic vegetation growth, occasional algae blooms (HAB's), and overuse. As you know, the OLA has focused on these very threats for many years. Their report continues: “Some of the streams within the County face stream bank erosion problems and excessive nutrient loading. Through a watershed focus, these interconnected streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands are managed with the end goal of improving habitat, usability, and overall water quality. The FL-LOWPA program, administered here by the Madison County Planning Department, focuses on assisting local communities and user groups through the implementation of projects, the development of new ideas, assistance with scientific research, and the nurturing of cooperation.”

The Madison County Planning Department has identified a variety of programs to help alleviate the pressure from these threats. For example, the Department worked with dairy farms in the area to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation on lands adjacent to Chittenango Creek. The OLA applauds them for this work.

For photos and descriptions, please follow this link to the full report.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/eb077e39501/d191f10d-b8f2-424e-a2c5-b43e19005af4.pdf?rdr=true>

Fish Hatchery

Of course, we are all so very disappointed that the Hatchery in Constantia had to be closed to the public in order to keep our walleyes and our citizens safe. As you know, your Board of Directors has been working on this situation day and night for the past week. We hope to hear good news soon.

We also hope that you were lucky enough to visit the Hatchery before its closure.

I was super fortunate because I had an opportunity to spend an entire morning at the Hatchery, helping to shuttle walleyes from the nets out in the lake back to the holding areas in the facility. There was a brisk wind, a steady chop, and the continuous spray of 40 degree water in the open boats. And it was terrific!

We probably Ubered well over a thousand fish back to the Hatchery, where they were carefully handled in preparation for the fertilization process. Once they are quickly stripped of eggs or sperm, they are slipped back into the stream to continue their life in the open waters.

Every trip produced at least two or three really impressive females, the biggest I've ever seen. Interestingly, the nets also scooped up a few walleye tag-alongs. There were about a handful of pickerel, a couple of suckers, a big fat bullhead, a large bluish crayfish, and a truly magnificent brown trout!

~John Harmon OLA President

Enjoy these photos below!

A Day at the Hatchery!

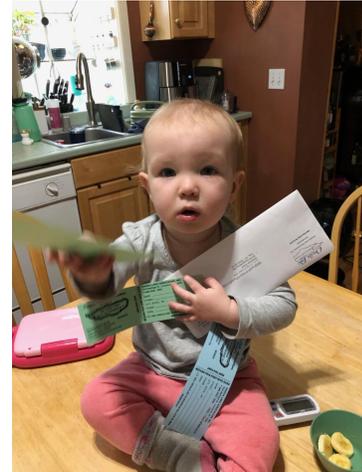


Help us Make OLA Bigger and Better!

Hopefully by now you have received your letter inviting you to renew your membership in OLA. You also found a few extra blue membership cards in the envelope. Please use those to sign up friends and neighbors . . . **for free!**

This crisis with the Hatchery has taught us that our strength lies in our numbers! When Albany hears that we have 2500 members, that helps them to pay attention!

**As you can see, signing up is easy!
Maddie is already working on it!**



Buffer in a Bag

This just in from OLA Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil

Deadline Approaches for Buffer in a Bag Program

The application period for the Trees for Tribes' "Buffer in a Bag" Program is open.

Qualifying private and public landowners may apply for a **free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings** for planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. To qualify, landowners must have property in New York State with at least 50 feet bordering a stream, river, or lake, and provide photos or a map of the planting location. We encourage previous recipients to reapply to continue to build riparian buffers. DEC chooses recipients on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications are due by **3 p.m. on April 11, 2022**. Contact treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov with questions, and visit DEC's [Trees for Tribes webpage](#) to learn more.

Time for Spring Clean-Up!

Reminder: Friday, April 22nd, is Earth Day! It's also a great day to

contribute by participating in the OLA's Annual Spring Highway Cleanup.

Many hands make light work, **so please help by meeting at the Bartel Road north-bound on-ramp at 9AM.** Pickers and bags will be provided, as well as our safety vests etc.

So please mark your calendar, and be ready, rain or shine.

~ OLA Director George Reck and the Highway Clean up Team

In memoriam

The Oneida Lake Association has recently received several donations "in memory of" friends or family members who valued our lake and its premier steward, the OLA. Of course, we are most grateful whenever someone thinks of us, even in their time of sorrow.

If you choose to include us in your bereavement planning, please take an extra minute to contact me at president@oneidalakeassociation.org. I would be pleased to pay tribute to your loved one in a brief announcement in our newsletter.

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!