



Oneida Lake Association
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Networking Meeting

Your OLA Board of Directors continues to reach out to a variety of partnerships that share in our goal of enhancing the quality of life on and around Oneida Lake. Recently we hosted our Annual Networking Meeting at Arrowhead Lodge, adjacent to Oneida Shores County Park.

At this meeting we welcomed representatives from a variety of groups, including elected officials (at both the state and local levels), law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel, environmental clubs and organization, and other civic organizations whose mission is to enhance water quality and environmental protection. **We thank OLA Director Matt Kazmierski for organizing the event!**



Following a hearty BBQ and a pleasant session of networking and mingling, we adjourned to a meeting where each person introduced himself or herself and stated why they remained committed to OLA causes. After a few brief remarks by OLA President John Harmon, the meeting transitioned to a few keynote speakers. We heard from a representative from State Senator John Salka's office. We also heard remarks from Assemblyman Brian Miller, who now welcomes the eastern end of Oneida Lake to his area of representation.

As the final speaker, Steve Hurst, the DEC Bureau Chief for Fisheries, ended the meeting on several positive notes. He spoke to us about some exciting projects the DEC is developing, including an acoustic telemetry project for studying the lake and its fishery.

He also encouraged us to download the HuntFishNY mobile app. HuntFishNY is the official New York State DEC mobile app that provides hunters, trappers and anglers across the state instant mobile access to electronic versions of their sporting licenses, privileges and permits; the

ease of reporting game harvests immediately; and links to useful information like season date summaries, fishing information, a DEC Contact list, and much more.

HuntFishNY features include:

- Instant, mobile access to a customer's sporting license, privileges and permits
- Quick and easy submission of Game Harvest Reports
- Smart filtering for collecting town, county and WMU of harvest data, as well as season and method of take info
- Ability to view current and past harvest reports
- Links to current year Hunting & Trapping and Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guides
- Sunrise/Sunset Information

The app also includes a new feature called **Tackle Box**.

- Tackle Box features include:
- Ability to search water bodies by name or zooming/panning a NYS map
- Water body-specific fishing regulations
- Fish species and stocking information
- Fishing access information, including boat launches and parking areas
- Navigation feature for driving directions

Steve Hurst shared the latest Press Release on Tackle Box:

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) led the creation of the Tackle Box's map-based interface for displaying fishing information. Unlike any other current mobile fishing smartphone offering for New York State, Tackle Box allows users to search for water bodies by name or by panning and zooming. Highlighted waters are clickable, providing information on special fishing regulations, fish stocking, and boating/fishing access sites owned by DEC, the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, New York State Canal Corporation, and New York City Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, the new "navigate" feature gives users driving directions to the boating access site of their choice. The Tackle Box also includes an offline feature that allows anglers to use it when cell service is not available.

Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said, "Anglers from around the world regard New York State as a premier fishing destination. The new Tackle Box feature will encourage even more people who love fishing to come be a part of all there is to enjoy in New York, from spectacular scenery to inviting lodging and world-class food and beverage experiences.

Stephanie West Vatalaro, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, said, "One of the main reasons people don't fish is because they don't know where to go. The new 'Tackle Box' feature on the HuntFishNY app helps guide people to local fishing spots and connects them with regulations and fish species information to help make trip planning easier and smoother."

Todd Ceisner, Publisher of *In-Fisherman Magazine*, said, "Anglers across New York now have a best-in-class tool to research and plan their next fishing trip, whether to a lake, river, creek or pond. The new Tackle Box section of the HuntFishNY app is incredibly user-friendly and will be a helpful tool for new, novice and experienced anglers."

Scott Locorini, President of the New York State Outdoor Guides Association, said, "I think the new Tackle Box app is incredible! Not only will it be helpful for the guides of New York State when searching for new waters, but I also believe it will benefit all anglers in New York. I really like having the ability to use it offline because many of the places I go don't have phone service."

To watch an instructional video on how to access Tackle Box from the HuntFishNY app, go to youtu.be/G7yQehsjH-g.

For a brief demonstration on features of the Tackle Box, go to youtu.be/85jtYE8pBag.

For more information on the [HuntFishNY](#) app and new Tackle Box feature, visit the DEC website at dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html. For technical assistance with the app, users can call the DECALS helpline at 866-933-2257. For specific questions about fishing, users can email fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

New York has dozens of bodies of water that consistently rank among the best angling destinations in the country. In 2021, New York boasted six locations in *Bassmaster Magazine's* top 25 bass lakes in the Northeast. This included the St. Lawrence River ([Thousand Islands](#) No. 1), [Lake Erie](#) (No. 3), Lake Champlain (No. 4), Cayuga Lake (No. 11), [Oneida Lake](#) (No. 18), and [Chautauqua Lake](#) (No. 25). Lake Ontario continues to excel and a record walleye population in Oneida Lake continues to thrill anglers. New York's anglers contribute an estimated \$2.1 billion to the economy, supporting jobs and increasing state and local tax revenue.

To access these exciting new features today, download the latest version of HuntFishNY by visiting your [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

For technical assistance, users can call the DECALS call center at 866-933-2257. For fishing specific questions, users can email fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

We thank Steve Hurst for this great information!

Check it out!

**Men (and Women)
at Work!**

Those of us who are shoreline residents know



how busy the fall season is: Pulling in docks and hoists, winterizing boats, and dusting off ice fishing gear. It looks like there are a variety of other projects at work, too!

First, there is significant progress at the Cove Road Boat Launch near Sylvan Beach. **We are all extremely pleased that the boat launch on Cove Road is finally coming to fruition. The OLA Board, including eight of our past Presidents, have pushed for this access for many years. We are confident that the DEC is building a facility that all Oneida Lake users can be proud of.**

Also, Oneida Shores is upgrading the boat launch area by installing new break-walls near the launch. Check out this big rig at work!



And finally, long-time Oneida Lake resident Don Therre spotted a crew fetching buoys from the lake. That's always a sign of imminent ice season!



Website photos

We have have been thrilled with the response for our call for photos. As we develop our new website, our goal is to populate the photo library with the outstanding contributions from our OLA members.

Check out this dramatic image from a daily recorder of the South Bay sunrises, Aimee Fletcher.

Keep those photos coming!



In memoriam

We are always grateful to the families who decide to think of the OLA in their time of sorrow, after a loved one passes. Many families have included the OLA as a recipient of the gifts that folks give in honor of the deceased. We truly appreciate the support and notes of kindness, often from a family who enjoys time on the water. We try to honor those friends of Oneida Lake by publishing a brief remembrance of some special moments in their lives.

OLA member Tom Ward recently reached out to us to pay tribute to his mother who passed away. He tells us that:

"Barbara Peet was a lifelong resident of the south shore of Oneida Lake in Billington Bay. Her father bought the property in 1948 when things were much different. The dirt road that serviced the 12 properties on the lake ran between the shoreline and the camps. It was moved to the other side of the properties in the '60's. One hand pump brought potable water to the surface

for the residents. A party phone line operated among the camps so if your neighbor was using the phone you had to wait until they were done. In 1992 Barbara had the camp torn down and designed a yearlong residence, a home.

As a youth she swam out to buoy 125 in the barge canal from her place! She often talked about how quickly storms developed on her shallow lake. She also loved fishing the lake. She will be missed."

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!

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