



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIVITIES

On April 10, the Directors finalized the agenda for our May 2, 2018 Annual Meeting.

We also heard presentations from, and enjoined discussion with, NYSDEC Region 7's Director Matthew Marco, and Fisheries Manager David Lemon, as well as Cornell Fisheries Scientists Randall Jackson and Anthony Van Der Valk. Future OLA communications will discuss developments regarding scientific initiatives on the lake, improvements to access, law enforcement, and fisheries and wildlife management activities.

The BOD continues discussion of the interrelationship of sediment and nutrients entering the lake with algae blooms. The theme for the Annual Meeting will be **Information - Education - Action**. Consistent with understanding Oneida Lake's unique regional issues and importance, speakers will summarize the walleye egg take, the status of the fisheries, cormorant management plans for the year, and access at sites around the lake.

Our featured speaker, Dr. Greg Boyer from SUNY ES&F will provide information relative to aspects of local cyanobacteria blooms.

As always, there will be a variety of displays and door prizes.

The 2018 Annual Members Meeting will be Wednesday May 2 at CNS Gillette Road Middle School. **SAVE THE DATE.** Doors open at 6; the meeting starts at 7PM. Bring the kids and a friend!

PLEASE BE PRUDENT AND CAREFUL OUT THERE! OLA is saddened that our boating season started off April 10 with a fatality. Please wear your PFD, properly prepare and know your boat, operate it safely, and do a 'pre-

flight' briefing with your companions. Let someone know where you are going, and when to expect you back home.

CLEVELAND PIER plans are advancing for reconstruction of the decaying pier and for redevelopment of the mooring area and angler access amenities. Look for more news later in the year; partner organizations hope to have construction contracts underway in 2019.

Constantia Hatchery crew set the nets April 9. If you want to take the family to see walleyes in the holding tanks, fish being stripped, and incubating egg glasses, **plan on a trip there Saturday or Sunday April 14-15.**

Lewis Point Anglers – *Abuse and Lose!*

NYSDEC has negotiated fall and winter access for the public across this precious piece of private land. If the signs are not obeyed, and the access is abused, you may lose the rights to park and cross to the lake for the autumn 'night bite' and ice fishing. Courteously, please police your ranks.

This summer NYSDEC has committed to have ECO's afloat. No poaching!

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

Call for volunteers from your organization and the Oneida Lake Community!!

Two dates are scheduled to pull invasive water chestnut weeds. While OLA is now aware of more infestations, Directors Cerro-Reehil and Ford have stepped up to rework the Big Bay and Lewis Point areas. **A dozen helpers are needed** for each site/date.

If you can assist on **Friday June 29th** (or 30th as rainday) at Poddygut-Big Bay Creek, please contact pcr@nywea.org. If you can help at Lewis Point on **Saturday July 14th** email Cford113@yahoo.com. Kayaks, canoes, and/or small boats will be helpful to assist waders in the respective harvests. Past participants have enjoyed a day playing in the water, and meeting fellow conservationists. Please reach out to a partner, and help us on one or both dates. OLA is engaging with other partner organizations to address other infestations, but no dates have been set for those pulls in and around Marion Manor, Long Point, and Metzger Pond.

Separately, volunteers to assist OLA Directors in cleaning our adopted highway, the **Bartel Road I-81 interchange**, on **Friday April 20 at 9AM**. OLA will provide bags and safety vests; bring gloves and dress appropriately for weather. With enough help the crew will tackle the off-ramp in an hour and then clean trash from the Angler Access trail and beneath the Bridge.

WATER, SOIL, AND YOU

April 9, enroute to an OLA Board meeting, I listened to a public radio broadcast having an association with OLA's advocacy to curtail tributary erosion and lake sedimentation. <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/04/09/597617822/a-grass-roots-movement-for-healthy-soil-spreads-among-farmers>. OLA hopes to raise awareness of local, state, and federal officials - and you, the general membership and public - in our drainage basin. Algae blooms are the current topic on CNY waterways – and keynote discussion in the 2018 OLA Annual Meeting. Algae growth can be associated with tributary health, via nutrient loads.

I recall participating in the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970 on the SU and ES&F (then the College of Forestry) campuses. Born in the wake of elevated concern about environmental pollution, EPA was established under Richard Nixon on December 2, 1970 to consolidate in one agency a variety of federal research, monitoring, standard-setting, and enforcement activities to ensure environmental protection. <https://www.epa.gov/history>. It was in this day of 'hopping on the environmental band wagon' that the NYS Conservation Department (and the Forestry School) changed their names! American schools and business began to raise an environmental consciousness that Aldo Leopold did not imagine while on his farm advocating and for conservation.

Before air pollution regulations were enacted (*remember old city seals that show smokestacks as symbols of prosperity?*), and the nation railed anti-nuclear following 'an incident' of Three Mile Island, the Army Corps of Engineers was dealing in water. In 1802 it started to repair Norfolk and New Orleans. <http://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/Brief-History-of-the-Corps/>

No factor was more pivotal in the birth of EPA than decades of rampant and highly visible pollution, primarily water. Industrial and municipal pipes (point source) discharges were the target. Billions of gallons of raw sewerage and tons of chemical wastes were piped to rivers, streams, lakes, and the ocean. In the 1990's and 2000's America's environmental consciousness turned to the non-point sources, the overland and storm water discharges as significant problems to remediate. The USACE and EPA now tag-team on water and wetlands protections, following a set of rules further altered, inconsistently, by each state.

In the period between WW-II and Vietnam, industrial and urban waste made rivers catch fire, caused fish to disappear, lakes to turn green, and tidal marshes to vanish. "The solution to pollution is dilution", while catchy in the period, the phrase became a rallying cry when - among other studies - USACE was asked to investigate diverting the polluted tributaries entering Oneida Lake around the lake and directly to Lake Ontario!

It was shortly after this time period (1967-1971) when Phillip E. Greeson of the US Geological Survey published Open File Report *Limnology of Oneida Lake with Emphasis on Factors Contributing to Algal Blooms* in conjunction with the new NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. His abstract started by stating that the [then] naturally eutrophic lake had been in this state for at least 350 years. Its water characteristics were derived from dissolved materials entering the lake. He calculated that 448,700 tons per year of dissolved minerals and nutrients entering supported annual algal blooms; 50,000 tons were retained in the lake and incorporated into bottom sediments. The greatest load, 72 percent, came from the southern tributaries. Chittenango contributing 37 percent of all materials entering the lake. "Ground water is negligible in both the water and nutrient budget."

In last year's OLA ENews #4 the book by the Cornell team was highlighted. *Oneida Lake: Long-term Dynamics of a Managed Ecosystem and Its Fishery* was published by the American Fisheries Society in February 2016. Chapter 4 -- *Watershed*,

Climate, and Lake Level Manipulations – by Rebecca L. Schneider, Marilyn S. Mayer, and Travis C. Hall – sheds some modern perspective on Greeson’s conclusions in the last century. Today we might conclude that upwelling groundwater passing through bottom sediments continually mixes nutrients into the column above.

There are seven stacked and inclined layers of bedrock in the lake basin. To the south, shale over limestone, more shale, and dolomite, sandy-shale, and sandstone lie over a bottom-most layer of shale. Above the bedrock are thick layer of unconsolidated deposits laid down by the glaciers. Scientifically these soils are relatively young and not depleted of nutrients. {*Dirt* is just *soil* that is just out of place!) To the north these soils tend to be more acidic and less nutrient-rich. With the bedrock layers inclined toward the lake, and the unconsolidated overburden readily able to transmit and store water, an extensive system of aquifers underlie a large portion of the watershed. Elevation differentials facilitate the conduct of surface and ground water flow into Oneida Lake.

An estimated 56 percent of the precipitation falling in the watershed reaches the lake *via* streamflow. Some 65 percent of the inflow comes from northern tributaries. Most of the nutrients come from the south. Comparing the 1967 and 2000 studies, baseline concentrations of dissolved and total phosphorous declined considerably. One conclusion is that the federal water quality legislation in the last century was effective.

Measurements still indicate that dissolved phosphorous levels, generally decrease during storm events, whereas total phosphorous increases in parallel with increases in suspended sediment loads as well as does nitrogen loading. The suspended solids are largely contributed to soil eroding from the watershed.

Schneider’s (*et alia*) 2005 work counters Greeson’s earlier statement, finding that groundwater seepage is an important but invisible contributor to the Oneida Lake ecosystem. For three years of monitoring, annual groundwater discharge rates represent 10-15 percent of the total water budget of the lake, with the remainder coming from the tributaries.

Experienced lake watchers have known forever that tributaries contribute more than just water to our lake. Some expressed concerns include logs, trees, lumber, nutrients, contaminants, pollutants, sediment. Striking was Captain Tim Caza’s report that he moved over four feet of muck to uncover the Durham boat (ENews #14). So, in the 200 years that this historic wreck lay on the bottom, how much of this sediment entered the lake in the last 100, 75, or 25 years? Do the sediments on the bottom appear in layers that each records a landscape change as CNY uplands responded to conversion from forest to agriculture to urban sprawl? Are the levels of current sedimentation detrimental or beneficial to the lake environment? If the former, what actions can be taken to ameliorate or curtail accelerated rates of upland erosion and lakebed deposition? Who will fund these measures, once (if) measures and responsible parties are identified? It is pretty clear that EPA, USACE, DEC, and the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts have protection of our tributaries and lakes in their mandates, but is there a will and aptitude to so act? Should we take a lesson from farmers “loving the soil?”

Geese are back. If you have an interest in managing ‘your’ resident flock, refer back to ENews #13 and the Nuisance Goose Workshop highlights as archived on the OLA website.

For those property owners who have evidence of goose nesting sites, oiling eggs and nests helps to keep the birth rate down. Oiling prevents embryo development. This option, however, requires permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Services. Homeowners who wish to spray eggs with oil must apply for a Depredation Order. Applications can be found online: <https://www.fws.gov/permits/applicationforms/ApplicationD.html>

Homeowners can apply for a Depredation Permit from the USFWS. This Permit is different from a Depredation Order, in that it allows for the actual taking of adult

OLA ANNUAL MEETING!!! MAY 2nd GILLETTE ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SOUTH BAY ROAD Between Cicero and North Syracuse. DOORS OPEN AT 6, **MEETING STARTS AT 7PM.** GREAT SPEAKERS!! DOORPRIZES!

Be sure to ask your youngsters to attend the OLA Annual Meeting. Look for the Agenda on the OLA website splash page. Come and renew your membership (\$8), and bring a friend.

Pay your dues, recruit your non-member neighbors and friends, and **HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!**



Donate

Help OLA function. Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving protection of the Oneida Lake environment.



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

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/>.

Report environmental violations. Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and management of Oneida Lake and its drainage basin. Be civil. **1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267) or 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)**