



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

**Our OLA Annual Meeting will be held on
May 1st, at Gillette Road Middle School.
Doors open at 6:00. Come browse the
exhibits.**

Meeting starts at 7:00

Topics include:

Fish Hatchery Report

Cormorant Hazing

Automated Distress Hailing using DSC

And an Open Forum

We're giving away two Go Pro Cameras,
and many other Door Prizes!

Come Join Your Fellow OLA Members!

LET'S ELIMINATE THE TRASH AROUND ONEIDA LAKE

It is unfortunate that so much of the public disrespects the hidden efforts of OLA and its friends. When an opportunity arose years ago, OLA partnered with NYSDOT and NYSDEC to construct two pedestrian angler access points beneath I-81's bridge over the Oneida River. Both the north and south facilities are heavily used, and lightly abused. Twice a year OLA Directors clean up the area (see below). Meanwhile we ask that all anglers police their ranks.

It is unlikely that the users of the the I-81 facilities are OLA members, and that is ok, but regardless of where you fish, **please respect our shared environment.** **Don't litter.** Pick up and properly dispose of or recycle trash. Report vandalism and illegal activities on our public facilities.



ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED SEDIMENTATION AND WATER QUALITY INSIGHT

In an effort to keep the OLA's interest in curtailing sediment entering the lake, the BOD is working with a number of entities to inform and educate. In doing so, we hope to incite ongoing progress by local governments to identify and address specific upland sites that are eroding, and to seek funding for their respective remediation.

Here are notes from the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District regarding its activities last month. We hope to start getting similar updates from the adjoining county Districts.

Beef Farm, Pompey – AEM Tier 3A Planning

In preparation for EPF 25, a plan is being developed to include a barnyard, non-concrete supported pad, an access road, and animal exclusion from a stream including a Pasture Grazing Management Plan.

Crop/Beef Farm, LaFayette – Grants submitted and Continual Tier 3A Planning

The Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grant for the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watersheds was completed and submitted to provide 75/25 cost-shared implementation of an Erosion Control System – Structural, including a Water and Sediment Control Basin (NRCS 638) and Underground Outlet (NRCS 620).

Planning is taking place in preparation of the EPF 25 grant to be released this spring. Projects include additional Erosion Control System – Structural, to install three additional WASCObS and Underground outlets to improve field quality and reduce erosion concerns.

In response to erosion concerns, recommendations are being made to rotate crops to promote healthy soils impacting the overall conservation benefit of the farm.

ADDRESSING ANGLER ACCESS ISSUES

Floods and Foundations from ancient times

²⁴ *Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* ²⁵ *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.* ²⁶ *And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* ²⁷ *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and*

To be politically correct, we can also ask of the Quran according to Yusuf Ali: ***Which then is best? - he that layeth his foundation on piety to Allah and His good pleasure? - or he that layeth his foundation on an undermined sand-cliff ready to crumble to pieces? and it doth crumble to pieces with him, into the fire of Hell. And Allah guideth not people that do wrong.***

And thousands of years later, we realize that it is extremely expensive to reconstruct the Sylvan Beach Pier.

Sylvan Beach Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) by Buffalo District Corps of Engineers January 2004 pursuant to a Section 103 Shoreline Protection Study authorized by the Rivers and Harbors act as amended in 1962. This \$3.25M study was cost shared between the Federal government and the NYS Canal Corporation. Constructed in 1907 to serve as a navigational aid and to prevent movement of sediment into the then commercially valuable barge canal, the pier also served as an important site for recreational activities that contributed to the local, regional, state, and Federal economies.

The pier was a rock filled timber crib, resting on the lake bed, capped with concrete. Wood rots and sands shift.

At the time of the study, the pier was in an advanced state of deterioration. This study concluded (1) a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should pier rehabilitation proceed, (2) reconstruction of the entire pier would have No Adverse Effect on culturally historic resources [00PR1870] and (3) that the Federal interest in rehabilitation had been demonstrated, and recommended requesting budgetary funding be authorized for preparation of Plans and Specifications.

The OLA Board of Directors resolved, by vote on April 12, 2004, to support refurbishments of the pier. Letters of support were submitted by the Town of Vienna, Oneida County, the Herkimer-Oneida Comprehensive Planning Program, one member of the NYS Assembly, and Village of Sylvan Beach. The NY Legislature did not promote the requisite matching funds. Similarly, NYS Congressional representatives were unable to secure support for adding funds to the Corps authorization in subsequent fiscal years.

Much of the 2,300-foot pier had settled into the fine bottom sands, its concrete cap cracked and became vulnerable to shifting ice and wave action, and over-topping caused erosion on the south shore adjacent to the canal entrance. The deteriorated condition had been a contributing factor in 19 drownings, scores of boat collisions, and numerous unofficial injuries or accidents. The pier was closed to pedestrians in 1966.

Agencies reconsidering resumption of some reconfiguration of the existing derelict pier, or an alternative lessor facility, would be obligated to review of and adherence to no fewer than 50 state and Federal laws, executive orders, policies, etc.

The DPR estimated a project cost of \$8,718,100 in 2004 dollars [*\$11,731.913* in 2019]. Of this the Federally capped contribution was \$3M requiring \$5,718,100 to be from shared state and local financing.

However, it is perhaps a legitimate question to ask “*can the portions of the old pier that are now a navigation hazard be repurposed as fill to form a new angler and pedestrian angler access structure?*” Could we promote a design for a structure ~600 feet (long enough to retard long-shore drift of Fish Creek Sand) of sheet pile driven to bearing depth (~70’), backfill (8-12’) with rubble (and crushed remnants of the old chunks of pier), cap with new concrete tread, incorporate ice-resistant bollards (with moulded notches for seasonally removable rails), and tie to the onshore trail, and close the pier from November 15 to April 15 to protect the foolish? [The modular template at Chapman Park has survived ten(?) winters...a slightly more robust version at Sylvan Beach seems credible, but the open model would enable continual sediment transport.]

What would a small structure cost, and who could share footing the bill? Yes, interest rates are lower than in 2004, but construction fuel is 3-4X higher, User Day Values of canal lockage and the value of recreational angling, birding, and day use tourism are unlikely to exceed half the estimated cost of the 2004 design. Test this hypothesis – is there commensurate National

Would it not be a relatively easy task for the Corps and Canal Corp modify the DPR for advancement of a design study, Plans and Specification, and estimate forbidding? All three of the original 2004 alternatives had positive benefit-to-cost ratios, albeit relatively low. A smaller project may test better. If the federal and state 'wallets' are to be opened for but one CNY waterway protection and enhancement project, then the decision would be to test if a pier has more benefit than say, completion of lake sewerage, control of upstream erosion (curtailing lake sedimentation), measures to contain future unwanted aquatic invasive species, or... what?



Cleaning up the Lake

OLA thanks those who participated in the April 26 **trash pickup** at the Bartel Road I-81 interchange and the Angler Walk beneath the bridge. Cleanup Committee, Captain George Reck reported that

Eight volunteers of the OLA came together on April 26, to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program at the Bartel Road Rt.81 N on-ramp area. OLA President Warren Darby, along with fellow members Steve Drummond, Tom Giufre, Greg Keener, Jim Novak, Scott Shupe, George Reck Sr. and myself George Reck Jr. proceeded to fill eight 48 gallon bags with all variety of waste plastic, paper, soda and liquor bottles, cans, cigarette filters, car parts, worm containers, fishing line, and Styrofoam cups and plates.

It was a wet and cool morning as April weather does not usually cooperate but we started around 08:30 and finished up by 10:30. It may not appear to some to be a great endeavor, but the feeling of accomplishment and good that was felt made it well worth the effort. I would like to encourage my fellow OLA members to consider our Fall high way cleanup and sooner still the Water chestnut Pull coming up this summer. Stay tuned to this newsletter for details. The great feeling of a positive contribution made toward our environment, in particular the Oneida Lake Region is extremely rewarding. These activities can make for a great family experience, one that builds great memories and encourages stewardship toward our beautiful outdoors.

I hope to see you there. Have a safe and fun summer, George.

Also, we will be facilitating **weed pulls** in mid-July. Invasive, alien, water chestnut is being controlled in several locations where the nuisance plant has been identified by members. If you have a kayak, canoe, small boat, or just want a day to play in the lake, we would like to have your help. Stay tuned.

Another possible Volunteer Effort - needs a champion!

One of the reasons so much litter is "accepted" along the I-81 Angler Access from the Brewerton Park-n-Ride lot is due to unmanaged invasive species. As seen in the picture, the grassy slopes between the NYSDOT fences is overgrown with non-native honeysuckle, phragmites reed, and buckthorn. These trashy plants are so profuse that a 2-footed creature thinks little of tossing aside plastic worm containers, beer cans, single use coffee cups and other litter into the brush.



Within our membership do we have some folks with a bit of landscaping talent, ATV's, chippers, chains, hand tools and time who could uproot and remove these noxious plants? Many folks offer that they cannot help us on the spring and fall Friday trash pickups (George's day off), but they would help on a weekend event.

If a few of you, and your buddies, would like to pull (pun intended) together a plan to help re-landscape and maintain this public access way, contact an OLA Director. We will help approach DEC and DOT to perhaps grant us access to deal with these plants and eliminate the trashy appearance!

Along the way we can ask DOT to deploy its resources to restore the fallen Oneida Lake-River sign on the northbound shoulder, and to pick up the motorist-derived trash that has accumulated between the pavement and chain link fences . And even to remove the non-grass vegetation there too!

A friend of the OLA - **Ken Lynch** - retired recently from NYSDEC. Honoring his service to CNY, a new boat launch is named for him on [Onondaga Lake](#).

Oneida Lake ice went out April 9, about on track with the normal date on which the lake is essentially all open water, and not refreezing. Although Cornell's data shows only a modest trend toward later ice-up and ice-out, the same is not true in northern latitudes. Read the following article about the Tanana River, and its embedded Bering Sea ice story.
<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/04/14/nenana-ice-classic-tripod-goes-down-setting-record-for-earliest-river-break-up/>

If you have an avocation and interest in serving OLA, please reach out to one of the Directors. Our contact info is at our website.

The BOD currently has one Director vacancy, and anticipates another in the next year. Directors meet once a month, and may spend 3-6 hours a month on OLA businesss. Each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position after serving for a few 2-year terms.

Write out your avocational resume and send it along with a brief note outlining your experience and interests to any OLA Director, or to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

A member/reader suggested that ENews incorporate a segment of **FISHING**

TIPS.

So here we go. Feel free to offer up some of your short hints, tips, and tricks.

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

Recruit your non-member neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



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](#)

OLA is a 401(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/>.

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)**

Edited by Scott Shupe and John Harmon.

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