



**Oneida Lake Association**  
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Greetings!

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## WHAT'S UP?

The OLA BOD at its June and July meetings discussed the following topics and actionable items:

- Weed pulls and volunteers
- Planning for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting
- VP Harmon and a special committee has analysed the Member Survey from this spring and is outlining possible responses to several of the topics that you all suggested would improve the OLA and its functions
- The invitational August Networking Meeting is scheduled for August 12; town, county, and state government officials should be on the lookout for an email to be sent in a few days.
- The Government Relations Committee is preparing a series of Oneida Lake issues bullets with which to brief area legislators as appointments with them can be made over the next few month.

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## Cove Road Update

While the Governor regularly announces recreational improvements to access parks and launch sites across the state, we have no update on the DEC Region 6 "top priority" to start work at Cove Road. This new boat launch site on the Barge Canal just east of Fish Creek has been a permitting and design initiative of the NYSDEC, Canal Corp, and OLA for over 25 years. Start of construction was to have begun this season, but has been delayed another site where designs were more advanced (the new launch on the Grass River above Massena that was funded by NYPA?).

ENews will report as soon as site clearing begins, hopefully this fall.

Oneida Lake is not hampered by the high water levels that will plague the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence for the rest of the year. We have our great lake to enjoy!

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## Oneida Shore Kiosk

Until recently, the OLA provided a display of information at the large kiosk at the Oneida Shores Boat Launch. Although the entire kiosk has been removed, Park Superintendent Gary Lopez informs us that Eagle Scout candidate Conner Finke is planning, designing, and managing the construction of a new display at the boat launch.

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## Data for the 9 Element Plan

Two months ago, OLA learned that DEC was able to shift money from its Lake Classification Inventory (LCI) program to be used for Oneida this year and next in order to support sampling needed for the **NYSDEC's 9-Element Plan (NEP)**. This plan is important to the future of Oneida lake, and is an important step in the Board's attempt to promote upland conservation measures influencing lake sedimentation.

We won't need nearly as much sampling as originally thought for the calibration and validation of the model. Considerable savings to the larger effort is realized after reviewing the volumes of existing Cornell University data.

The Department of State awarded the Madison County Planning Department a grant to support the development of a Nine Element Watershed Plan (9E Plan) some time ago back in late 2017. While the contract for the grant has still not been executed, some progress has been made. The workplan, which will form the basis for the contract, has been approved by the Department of State. The contract is currently working its way through the contract unit at the Department of State. Additionally, CNY Regional Planning and Development, NYS DEC, Cornell University, and Upstate Freshwater Institute have been meeting to coordinate efforts needed to complete the plan.

NYS DEC recently began sampling efforts on Oneida Lake and its tributaries to support watershed modeling efforts that will be integral to the 9E Plan. The first round of NYS DEC sampling was completed on the following tributaries: Fish Creek, Scriba Creek, Oneida Creek, Canaseraga Creek, and Chittenango Creek on June 19<sup>th</sup>. These five tributaries account for approximately 70% of the flow volume entering Oneida Lake.

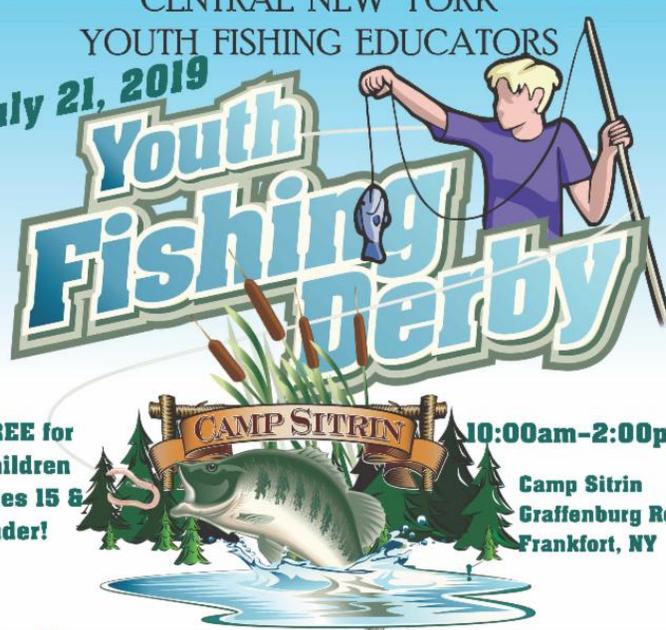
Results from this sampling effort, land-use data, and other environmental factors will be incorporated into the watershed model and used predict pollutant loads and identify sources of pollution entering Oneida Lake. NYS DEC will also be completing lake sampling this summer. Three lake locations have been selected with input from Cornell University and Upstate Freshwater Institute.

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CENTRAL NEW YORK  
YOUTH FISHING EDUCATORS

**July 21, 2019**

# Youth Fishing Derby



**FREE for Children ages 15 & under!**

**10:00am-2:00pm**

**Camp Sitrin  
Graffenburg Rd.,  
Frankfort, NY**

Children must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.  
Registration will be at the camp the day of the event.  
Participants will need to bring their own brown bag lunch and drinks.  
Bottled water will be available. Alcohol is prohibited.  
Only real worms or rubber worms on a single hook can be used for bait.  
No fishing with minnows, crawfish, or lures is allowed. Worms and fishing equipment will be available for those who do not have their own.

**100% CATCH & RELEASE FISHING!**

Dedicated to the memory of  
**Dr. John F. Millett,**  
who was chairman of the Kiwanis  
"Take a Kid Fishing Day" at  
Graffenburg Reservoir from 1984-1996

**CO-SPONSORED BY**  
CNY Youth Fishing Educators, Sitrin Health Care Center

**OTHER SPONSORS:**  
Marge Millett & Family, Morgan's Wholesale Bait, M.T.O. Lures, Boats Unlimited,  
NYS DEC Fisheries, Nancy Carby, Adirondack Wild Turkey Unlimited,  
Oneida County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Foundation, Hornetown Bait & Tackle

*With deep sadness, The Youth Fishing Derby would like to recognize the passing of  
Adirondack Jack Leech, a longtime CNY Youth Fishing Educator, who passed in 2019*

## ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED SEDIMENTATION AND WATER QUALITY INSIGHT

In an effort to keep the OLA's interest in curtailing sediment from 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.

- LaFayette –
  - Funding for one of four Water & Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB) was secured through Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grant for the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watersheds. Other 4 WASCOB's will be written into EPF-25 (due July 22). Design of first WASCOB to commence.
- Fabius –
  - Staff to author a grant to NYS EPF Round 25 for cost-share of Best Management Practices (BMPs): barnyard, access road, and clean water exclusion of cows from water course and will provide an alternative water supply for cattle
- Fabius (Beef Farm) is interested in putting in a Barnyard and Pasture Grazing Management System, and would like to be considered for EPF-25. The Tier 3A farm plan must be completed and signed prior to applying for the grant. There is much to be done to meet July 22 EPF 25 grant application deadline.
- 3.6 miles of municipal maintained road ditch hydroseeded -June.

Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc. C-OFOKLA is hosting an **interesting conference** in association with the Federation of Lakes. Online registration for attendance is also available <https://nysfola.org/interactions-in-the-watershed-1st-nysfola-cny-regional-conference/>

The CNY Regional NYSFOLA Conference will take place Friday, August 16, 2019 from 8:30 – 4:30 at The Lodge at Welch Allyn, 4355 State Street Road, Skaneateles Falls, NY. [www.walodge.com](http://www.walodge.com)<<http://www.walodge.com/>>  
Lunch is included with the \$25.00 pre-registration (no breakfast).

This unique conference is organized by New York State Federation of Lakes Associations (NYSFOLA), Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations (C-OFOKLA) and Madison County Federation of Lake Associations (MCFOLA). The location is spectacular, nestled in the woods at the edge of Skaneateles Lake, and the speaker list is outstanding.

Objectives for this conference are to inform, educate, and connect the lakes associations and the municipalities of our region. Professionals will present on anticipated changes in our watersheds, ways to make a difference, and connecting with funding sources.

**Speakers** include:

**Dr. Greg Boyer**, Professor at SUNY-ESF and Director for the Great Lakes Research Consortium. Presenting on blue-green algae or cyanobacteria: why these blooms occur and the health effects associated with them. Hilary Mosher, Associate Director of Invasive Species Programs at Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges presenting information on the FLPRISM programs addressing the aquatic invasive species in our region.

**Dr. Lars Rudstam**, Professor at Cornell, Biological Resources Department and Director of the Cornell Biological Research Station at Shackleton Point, Oneida will present on the fisheries in our region and how they are affected by invasive species and climate change.

**Matt Marko**, DEC Region 7 Director: Water Quality will present a regulatory update for Region 7,

**Dr. Liz Moran** - Principal Scientist of EcoLogic, LLC. since and former Cazenovia Town, Madison County Board of Supervisors, and Chair of the county's legislative committee on Planning, Economic Development, Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs will provide a deep understanding of the roles and concerns of local government in managing land use and infrastructure.

**Meredith Perreault**, Program Manager, Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center. This center facilitates the development of sustainable and resilient communities in New York State. This presentation will focus on potential state and federal funding sources to help municipalities and lake associations manage water quality.

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## ONEIDA LAKE HISTORY

### THE GREAT CARRY - ONEIDA LAKE TO THE MOHAWK

As we approach our 75th year, we have invited OLA members and others to contribute ideas and articles for our readers and posterity (*PDF's of ENews and many Bulletins are archived on our website. Former Director Jack Henke advises that copies of Bulletins are indexed and part of the collections of the Central Onondaga County Public Library in the Galleries and the Madison County Historical Society in Oneida. The OCPL collection is complete, while the MCHS grouping lacks a dozen or so issues*).

**Here is a submission by member Jack B. Frost.**

In the 18th century there were very few developed roads across New York so the main means of transportation was through the waterways. Throughout world history, developed roads for cross-country travel were along rivers. So when America was colonized, moving people and goods to the frontier

required the navigation of the lakes and rivers. The West (*then Ohio*) was settled by boats moving north on Hudson River, then along the Mohawk River west to the Great Carry. Here Wood Creek, Oneida Lake, the Oneida River, the Oswego River, Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes became the Super Highway.

The Great Carry connected the Mohawk River with Wood Creek and Oneida Lake. At The Great Carry the water route was protected from French and Indians by a series of British Forts each located approximately a day's travel apart. Here an engineering project consisted of not only fortifications but also of holding ponds and dams to insure the flow of water through Wood Creek connecting Oneida Lake with the Oneida River. The British built a series of fortifications to provide respite and protection for the travelers along the water ways.

While the series of forts provided respite and protection the challenge of moving through the rugged waterways was still difficult. The main form of transportation were (on land) by foot and horse or oxen. On water vessels engaged in the travel were bateaux and canoes. The average bateau was 30 - 35 feet long, flat bottomed and double ended. Each would be crewed by three men, and could be rowed, poled or sailed. The average cargo weighed upwards of a ton. The bateaux could be called the tractor trailer of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They usually traveled in convoys for mutual protection.

Future submissions will discuss Fort Brewerton at Brewerton on the west end of Oneida Lake and the Royal Blockhouse located at present day Sylvan Beach, as well as other individual forts along the Carry.

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Long time OLA member, **Leon Harling** passed away earlier this year, leaving a legacy remembered by many boaters on Oneida Lake. Harling ran a small boat launch on the Barge Canal in Sylvan Beach for many years. OLA members and scores of Oneida anglers frequented his launch at the far eastern end of the lake. Current OLA President Bill Girvan recalls, "It was nothing fancy, but it was just right for a quick boat launch. Just drop \$8.00 into a slot on the garage and you were all set and on your way fishing. I used this launch often in recent years, and when I ran into Leon we would talk about fishing in Oneida Lake and in the Barge Canal." Frequent anglers would see Harling fishing with his red Lund, proudly displaying an OLA decal on both sides. Girvan further remarked, "He was one of the guys!"



His wife is still running this small boat launch. Leon's 18' older red Lund Boat is up for sale, too, if anyone is interested in a piece of Oneida history. You can contact his wife, Norma, if interested.

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## Cleaning up the Lake



OLA again is facilitating **weed pulls** to manage Invasive, alien, water chestnut 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.

Director Carl Ford ( [cford113@yahoo.com](mailto:cford113@yahoo.com) ) will organize the south shore pull on July 12. He believes that Lewis Point will need little or no effort based on the gains we saw last year. However, there will most likely be plenty to work on at the Oneida Lake Marina. Meet there at 9AM. Canoes will be helpful.

Director Patricia Cerro-Reyhill ( [pcr@nywea.org](mailto:pcr@nywea.org) ) organized the June 21 Big Bay pull. She reported that "having participated in these weed pull for 7 plus years, and this year was different with only 'small' rosettes surfacing. In the past the flowers could be comparatively huge in size, greater than 10 inches. We found nothing of the sort this year. Which I feel is a good thing! I had help from some SUNY-ESF students. We gathered only about 50 pounds."

If you have time, boats, and an inclination to have fun while serving your Association, please contact these folks!



Launch Stewards are again approaching boaters to assist in checking for invasives before and after launching boats.



Remember, a clean watercraft of any type, entering any NYS waterway, is the law!

Please explore the resources and publications archived on our website. This is the time of active aquatic vegetation growth, so consider Bob Johnson's article a great reference [Oneida Lake Plant Booklet](#) a great resource.

Remember that past issues of the OLA ENews are archived on our website, along with many Bulletins. Hard copy of all Bulletins are on the shelves of the Syracuse Onondaga County Public Library. We are looking for helpers to scan the older issues for posting on [www.oneidalakeassociation.org](http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org).

Our condolences to the families affected by two drownings over the Fourth of July weekend.

As previously highlighted in several OLA *Bulletins*, we are fortunate to have a number of [community rescue and support services](#) to assist those in need while on our lake.

Here is another **FISH STORY** from member  
Barry Stevens

*Well, now, I guess it's time to start relating some more fishing stories, so here goes another. And if just one person enjoys it, then hopefully there will be more. And of course, this story is all true.*

*By way of introduction my nickname is Pouter. Yup, that's right, mainly because I pout a lot. And that's what this story is about. It all started with a fishing friend of mine who I will call Earl.*

*Well a few years back we had entered one of them Oneida Lake fishing tournaments and decided that once entered we should at least fish during the tournament. So the two of us, against our better judgment, and without any other friends available, had no choice but to fish together. We always make an interesting fishing couple, because he is a fierce competitor and usually out-fishes me by three or four to one. I like to think of myself as a gracious host and good sportsman, but Earl pushes my patience with his ability to think fish into the boat. That and his dumb luck. As a result I usually wind up pouting after every trip with him. But I told myself not during this derby. Nope! I had some secrets up my pant leg. Literally.*

*You see, for this trip I had two dozen specially ordered Chinese lures, with each one having six sets of treble hooks. With these lures I thought to myself that no stupid animal, let alone a fish, could avoid hookup. My secret arsenal was rounded out by a bottle of home-made fish formula attractant, two brand new hand-made, eighteen-foot, extendable, steel fishing rods, and my good luck Australian cowboy fishing hat. We had previously agreed to use Earl's fourteen foot boat the first day, and mine the second. Two days of fishing would prove who was the better fishing person.*

*Of course whenever we fish together, we never share our fishing secrets, so I had to disguise my fishing equipment until we started fishing. This was no easy matter, but I figured out quite a successful plan. I placed the lures in a cloth bag hung to the front of my belt, the fish attractant in my drink bottle, and my extendable fishing rods up my pant legs. To properly secure them I slid them inside my belt with the butt of each in my boots. The hat I simply wore underneath a larger baseball cap. We each got into our snow suits, although I had some trouble squeezing the sack of lures and my extendable fishing rods into my snow pants. After finally getting dressed for the bad weather, I must admit that I felt pretty cocky. Earl just stared at me.*

*As I remember the day, there were three foot seas, and a chance of an isolated thunderstorm. It was a fairly rough ride out as I could not sit with those steel rods up my pant legs, so I had to balance myself as best I could in the bow of the boat. And did I bother telling you that I get sea sick pretty easily. Well, we motored out to a good looking area a few hundred yards or so from the launch ramp and started fishing. At least Earl did. Once he slowed down and started trolling I started to feel a little green under the gills. In no time at all Earl had his first fish on, and I was still struggling to get the rods out of my pant legs.*

*Being a somewhat stubborn person, I continued playing with my stuck fishing rods for what must have been thirty minutes. In that time frame Earl had caught and netted five fish, and kept throwing them into the bottom of the boat. I was really frustrated, as I simply could not get the rods out of my pant legs because they kept extending down when I went to pull on them. Not ever being known as the brightest*

bulb on the tree, I finally loosened my waist band, slid the sack of lures around behind my back, and started extending the rods up into the air. About the time I got both rods fully extended, the waist band gave away completely and the snow pants slid down around my ankles.

There I was balancing myself on the front seat with the two rods fully extended, my feet lashed together by the snow pants, and the rods still caught between my belt and my boots. I was strung vertically, so to speak, not being able to bend over. In this condition, with three foot seas rocking the boat, I did what any cool thinking person would do. I became frantic. I was also becoming sicker. In my panic to deal with the sea sickness, I reached for the drink bottle I had the foresight to have placed in my pants pocket. I took three quick but yet full and refreshing gulps. Remember what was in that bottle? I didn't! It only took ten seconds for me to remember.

Have you ever tasted homemade fish attractant? Do you know what goes into homemade attractant? Believe me when I say that you don't want to know either answer. Neither did my stomach. Earl later said the belch lasted twenty seconds, and got some folks in other boats staring at me in amazement. A few even applauded.

It was so strong that it pushed me straight back off of the front seat. Luckily I somehow remained vertical as my feet landed in the bottom of the boat.

Did I say bottom of the boat? Remember where Earl threw his fish? Quicker than Earl could say "Don't step on my fish" my wrapped up feet went out from under me. My only thought as I was falling backward was that the steel rods would keep me straight. Stupid thought now that I look back. I found out to my chagrin that even those rods had a bending point as my butt headed for the boat seat. I must not have been as dull as I thought, because before I landed I also remembered where I had pushed the canvas sack, and in a totally brilliant moment what was in the sack. All 432 hook points if my math is correct. And they were not as dull as my mental capacity.

Earl says the scream set off car alarms on all the vehicles at the launch ramp. He also claims I set a record for the high jump, mastering at least 18 feet from the boat seat. All I could remember on my way up was the additional hurt I would feel upon landing. I need not have worried. Little did I realize at that precise moment what was meant by an isolated thunder storm. And me with twin lightening rods attached.

Well, you could almost figure out what happened next, except it gets even better yet. You see by the time I reached maximum altitude, the fish attractant had made itself all the way through me. Guess what? The lightening bolt struck at the same time as I passed an uncontrollable cloud of gas. Earl later said the firestorm lasted ten seconds and was twenty yards long. He also said all of them hook points were lit up like Fourth of July sparklers.

But like all fireworks after they burn out, I just sort of sizzled my way into the water, whereupon I was mercifully put out of agony. I looked up one final moment to see my good luck hat flutter down on my head. It was then that Earl netted the biggest, dumbest animal of the day....yup, yours truly the pouter.

I never did make it to the second day of the derby that year, as I spent the next three weeks on my stomach, pouting. I'll save the remainder of the story for another time if I can ever sit down again to type.

See Ya!

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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.

Directors serve 2-year terms, meet once a month, and may spend 3-6

hours a month on OLA business.

Each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position.

The BOD currently has one Director vacancy, and anticipates another soon.

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](mailto: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.

Right on schedule, Oneida's eelfly hatch started as spinners and molt carcass windrows appearing June 24. Walleye and pickerel have been in the weeds, taking worm harnesses and stickbaits. Anticipate that for early July fish may be suspended or deeper while eating *Hexagenia* if the hatch is robust. Then in August, after the lake stratifies, search the weeds and deeper, colder water for walleye.



### What length makes a good fishing boat?

Old Damon cedar row boats were 18-22' with 40-50" beams. Such a length cleanly cut Oneida's 3 foot swells because the boat spanned a typical wavelength of 10-16 feet.

Many a 12 and 14 foot boat have swamped with 2 adult anglers. And the lone guy at the tiller of such light boat risks flipping if fighting heavy seas in a driven wind. In reality, the best boat is one that you can afford, store, manage by yourself, and accommodate your friends and family.

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

**\$8 annually**

**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!*