



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

ANOTHER INVADER TO OUR WATERS!

Dr. Lars Rudstrum of Cornell notified the Oneida Lake Association that *Bythotrephes longimanus* (the spiny water flea), a predatory zooplankton species native to lakes in Europe, has been found for the first time in Oneida Lake on September 16. Cornell issued an October 9 a press release summarizing the confirmed discovery.

On Sept 22 Lars wrote me that: *The spiny water flea is a food web disruptor, and may affect the fishery on the lake, in particular young fish growth. It is abundant this week. We will look at effects on zooplankton, effects on fish growth, and which fish will eat the spiny water flea. We already found them in yellow perch, white perch and emerald shiner. Outcome is uncertain, alewife grow better when feeding on this animal in Lake Ontario. May happen for young perch in Oneida even though Daphnia decline. Seasonal timing will be important.*

NYSDEC's R-7 ECO Captain James Boylan made a very informative presentation to the BOD at the October meeting.

- A new CAD computer aided dispatch system is being employed as well as a track system to create and issue electronic tickets.
- Dept. has acquired Cleveland Elem. as a training facility. This will be implemented within the next year to 15 months.
- Past 10 months of data - 25 complaints called in on lake incidents
- Emergency response on Oneida Lake was affected by "no wake" enforcement on Lake Ontario
- Dept. has acquired Cleveland Elem. as a training facility. This will be implemented within the next year to 15 months.
- Criminal procedure is being overhauled in NYS. New Laws involving discovery have been changed. Discovery is now required within 15 days of arraignment. In addition, there are more requirements for discovery.

This may overwhelm district attorneys and many cases from the DEC may be dropped due to inability to handle all of them. The DEC is doing what they can to respond to these new changes and maximize their effectiveness.

- Please, when it comes to environmental laws being broken, adopt the homeland security motto, **"If you see something, say something!"**

COVE ROAD LAUNCH REPORT

Region 6 Fisheries Manager Jana Lantry provided this: *Oneida Lake is the largest lake lying entirely within New York and is well known for its great fishing, boating and swimming. Construction of the Cove Road Boat Launch Site will enhance these recreational opportunities for the lake and the Canal system. It is located immediately north of the Erie Canal and east of Cove Road in the Town of Verona. This \$1 million NY Works project includes 32 car and 50 car/trailer parking spaces, a two-lane concrete launch ramp with aluminum floating docks, and accessible parking, fishing platform and comfort station. Plans are nearly complete and we anticipate this project going out to bid this winter with construction to occur in 2020. The property is owned by the NYS Canal Corporation and is of historical significance as a portion of the Old Oneida Lake Canal is located underground adjacent to the boat launch site. This project will benefit local communities and all seeking to enjoy New York's natural resources.*

DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT HAZING REPORT

Region 6 Fisheries Manager Dave Lemon reported October 8 that the DEC *crew is out on the lake today and we intend to get out a few more times this month, weather permitting.* He will provide an update in December.

For now, only a few stragglers remain on the lake, and will soon be driven out by the Veterans Day cold snap. A week earlier tens of thousands of the pest were seen migrating across the lake.

From the Tug Hill Commission newsletter, this note about lands (and thus water) management activities in one of our most important drainages.

Around 40 individuals gathered in Constableville at The Alpine on October 2 to hear updates on the East Branch of Fish Creek lands in southern Lewis County. Michael Giocondo from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, who holds a conservation easement on the entire property, reviewed road infrastructure improvements made this past year. He also shared information on current non-motorized access trails, which includes 35 miles of road/trail for mountain biking, 28 miles of road/trail for horseback riding and 3/4-mile of trail for hiking/foot access. Accessible features include Camp Five Road Area Fishing/Observation Deck and the International Road's Motorized Access Permit for People with Disabilities.

Tim Burpoe, property manager with Molpus Woodlands Group, who manages the 30,000 acres south of G&W Road on behalf of owner Corrigan Fund, talked about timber harvests in the Camp 4 Road area and ongoing management of beaver. He also noted that 12 of the 15 camp leases on Molpus property are accounted for, leaving three available for lease.

Lastly, Brian Roat with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who owns approximately 15,000 acres north of G&W Road, also noted that he is looking for people to execute nuisance permits for beaver. Work has also started on the next leg of the Tug Hill Traverse trail which will connect the existing trail on the East Branch of Fish Creek

State Forest to the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area. He reported that TNC just finished their two-year reforestation project, and had a 38% one-year survival rate on their bareroot seedlings. Interestingly, the area experienced a significant drought right after planting, and some of the more experimental species including oaks and pines had the best survival rates. For a more detailed review of the meeting's discussion, the latest Fish Creek Update will soon be posted at <http://www.tughill.org/services/natural-resource-management/east-branch-of-fish-creek/>.

Stormwater Specialty Conference in Syracuse

The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) is hosting its first Stormwater Conference on November 19, 2019, at the Syracuse Downtown Marriott hotel. The conference will bring together individuals involved in stormwater management across New York State to discuss techniques and opportunities to improve system management and to learn more about the regulatory programs behind them. Through this event, you will learn about the upcoming changes to the NYS Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) General Permit and the Construction General Permit, examples of successful stormwater programs, exciting funding opportunities, and how to apply green infrastructure practices in non-MS4 communities. Also included will be a walking tour of 14 green infrastructure practices located in the downtown Syracuse area as a part of the Onondaga County Save the Rain program. There will be 4.5 Professional Development Hours or 6 Renewal Training Courses available to attendees of this conference. For more information and to register, please visit [NYWEA's website](#).

9 Element Plan Status

OLA, with its concern related to the deleterious effects due to erosion and sedimentation entering the State's largest inland lake, **urges town and county officials to become and remain vigilant** and take preemptive action when maintaining their respective culverts, bridges and ditch lines.

It finally appears that the long-awaited contract needed to complete the 9 Element Watershed Plan for Oneida Lake is advancing again. The NY Department of State (DOS) returned the contract to Madison County for signature on October 30, 2019.

It will take about a month to get it approved by the Madison County Board of Supervisors. Then, it is anticipated that it will be a couple of additional months before the DOS executes and returns the contract. Once the completed contract is executed, Cornell University and Upstate Freshwater Institute will be able to begin modeling efforts needed to complete the Plan. In preparation for these efforts,

NYSDEC began sampling efforts in the lake and in lake tributaries. CNY Regional Planning and Development will also be holding stakeholder meetings to receive input on the plan during its development. Stay tuned, OLA will be providing regular updates on the status of this effort.

Planning, Zoning, Codes, and Highway department managers should be familiar with the following website. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8694.html>

With deepest sympathy, we are sad to report the passing of Joan Darby, wife of OLA Past President, Warren Darby. Please join us in keeping Warren and his family in our thoughts and prayers. You may view Joan's obituary at:

<https://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?n=joan-darby&pid=194271015&fhid=6505>



HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY was Friday September 27. Volunteering were and participating Directors George Reck and Greg Keener.



Director George Reck writes: "Our crew consisted of Tom Giufre, Bob Walczyk, Steve Drummond, George Reck Sr. and myself. In about 2 hours we accomplished a thorough pick fest which resulted in about 80 lbs of garbage. I also tried to clean our graffiti defaced Fishing Access information sign adjacent to the bridge. The Goof Off cleaning spray did not touch the red spray paint. Otherwise, we had had a very productive outing. Thank you to our dedicated crew."



Some of you have complained that you want to help with OLA's events, but cannot if we run them on weekdays. The Friday's on which we run weed-pulls and trash pickup coincide with our Directors' days off. Feel free to pick up trash on your own, and pull any water chestnut when you see them on your days off.

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

We hope that NYSDOT soon re-erects the blue sign on Bartel Road, as well as the Oneida Lake sign on the bridge.

Once again larcenous vandals have destroyed our sign at the angler access trail. Despite attempts by George to clean it, it cannot be salvaged. This was an expensive project; replacement will be discussed by the BOD. If you readers have input or suggestions regarding updated content, sign vendors, a donation, or other ideas, please contact a Director.

Here is an item from the weekly Newsletter distributed by the DEC:

"Firearms and Adult Beverages Don't Mix

Onondaga County

On Sept. 2, Environmental Conservation Officer ECO Don Damrath responded to **Lakeshore Road in the town of Cicero** to investigate a report of hunters shooting too close to homes while drinking alcoholic beverages. Upon his arrival, ECO Damrath observed two individuals wearing camouflage clothing sitting on shore behind a residence on Lakeshore Road. ECO Damrath waited until legal shooting hours ended and approached the hunters with Cicero Police Officer Eric Flansburg. The ECO spotted three empty cans of hard lemonade and one empty can of beer in

the hunting blind. When questioned, both hunters admitted to drinking alcohol while hunting. The pair agreed to take a breathalyzer test administered by Flansburg. One hunter registered a .077 BAC, and the other blew a .044 BAC. Both hunters were charged in violation of ECL 11-1203(2) - hunting while impaired, a violation, and if found guilty, the two could face fines of up to \$250 and up to 15 days in jail."

Your OLA urges everyone to use safe sense whenever a firearm is involved! Although it is legal to hunt near shore, we urge all waterfowl hunters to remain courteous to the neighborhood.

We also urge fisherman to show some courtesy to the duck hunters. We have received reports of fisherman casting into or near a line of decoys.

Let's be careful and courteous out there!

Remember that past issues of the OLA ENews are achieved 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 go to the library and to scan the older issues for posting on our website www.oneidalakeassociation.org and helping us prepare for our 75th anniversary meeting next spring.

In 2020, your Oneida Lake Association will be celebrating its 75th anniversary! We hope to make you, our members, a part of this celebration. Please share your thoughts about the lake, your personal experiences or anecdotes, special photographs, or any other memories you have about the treasure we know as Oneida. We will select some of these submissions to include in our celebrations. If you have any historical info to share, please send it along! You may use the following email address: OLA75th@gmail.com

If any of your co-workers, friends or family complain that they are not getting this ENews series, suggest that they check their spam filters or similar privacy protections.

We put effort into this newsletter for your benefit, but find that only about 50% of the folks who have provided an email for this purpose are actually opening the monthly dispatch.

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 two Director vacancies.

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

Member's **FISHING TIPS.**

Feel free to offer up some of **your** short hints, tips, and tricks.

Rumor has it that the gizzard shad numbers will be low this winter, suggesting that we can expect good ice fishing, if and when the lake sufficiently freezes. **BE CAREFUL**

OUT THERE! Don't push your limits.

ALSO

Know that there are quite a few potential hazards to snow machines and ATV's in the East End. Quite a few trees entered the lake from Fish and Oneida Creeks, and are shoaled in shallow water. We hope that State Parks can mark these, [see this link](#), and that DEC and other agencies can remove many of them before they become navigation hazards once the ice goes out.

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Remember that many of the frequently asked questions about the lake are posted with responses on the website.

Q: *Will OLA advocate for a change in perch limits? And what is DEC's current position, if any on reducing the daily limit from 50 fish?*

A: *The OLA BOD would like to hear from members on this matter.* Your Directors have been intermittently discussing some form of updated panfish and perch regulations for Oneida Lake since the last century! However, we have no consensus from members.

Recognize that invaders - like zebra mussels, cormorants, gizzard shad, and even climate change - have altered the lake since the days when there were 4 Million perch in the lake. There are lots more ice fishers, using popular media, modern machines and sophisticated electronics to access and harvest from a contemporary population of about 1 Million fish. Cornell thinks the populations are healthy, but unlikely to return to the numbers seen forty years ago.

Some considerations include banning the sale of Oneida Lake perch, cutting the limit to 20 or 25 daily, and Federal lobbying for authorizations to enable killing more cormorants spring and fall. Tell us what you think by emailing President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org. Let us know if you have witnessed anglers abusing the lawful limit.

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

\$8 annually

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

The OLA Position Papers are posted on our website.
Below is a recent letter relating to a couple of our positions.
Drag on your screen to zoom in.



October 29, 2019

Joanie Mahoney
Chair and Central Region Co-Lead
Reimagine the Canal Task Force
c/o SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse NY 13210

Dear Chairwoman Mahoney:

On behalf of the 1700+ members of the Oneida Lake Association (OLA) and many thousands of people whose livelihoods and quality of life depend on Oneida Lake, I write to thank you and your colleagues for inviting an OLA representative to the Sept. 24 Aquatic Invasive Species Focus Group for the Reimagine the Canal Task Force. At our last Board of Directors meeting, I tasked our Government Affairs Committee to review the Reimagine the Canal information and provide some input. The following reflects discussion points made by the committee on the topics of aquatic invasive species (AIS) management and water level management.

First, OLA has long been interested in measures to slow the spread of invasive species. Numerous alien species have affected our lake including zebra mussels, quagga mussels, round gobies, water chestnut, double crested cormorants, white perch, and spiny water fleas. It is too soon to know when and how these species will reach equilibrium in the lake ecosystem. But there is no doubt that some have negatively impacted Oneida Lake, especially its sport fishery, causing millions of dollars in negative economic impact and loss of recreation and tourism opportunities. The lake doesn't need more challenges, and OLA's offer to the Task Force and related agencies is that we are always willing to consult on AIS management strategies.

Second, we note with concern that the consultants' report does not mention the value added by the Canal's water level management infrastructure, policy, or practices. While this subject may have been beyond the scope of the AIS focus group, we are compelled to reiterate OLA's long-held position: It is necessary to maintain appropriate water levels in Oneida Lake for the good of the lake's ecology, property owners, and users. Current water level management practices have been beneficial for our lake and they must remain a high priority for the agencies that manage water levels, the fishery, and other aspects of the lake environment today and in the future.

Oneida Lake's inflows at Fish Creek, Oneida Creek, and Chittenango Creek are controlled only by nature, e.g. snowmelt and rain. By contrast, Oneida Lake's outflow is controlled by a combination of nature and humans, e.g. the shallow streambed of the Oneida River west of Brewerton and the New York State Canal Corporation infrastructure at Caughdenoy. From 1910-1952, outflow rates at Caughdenoy were controlled by a fixed dam. Since 1952, outflows have been controlled by moveable gates; a policy known as the "rule curve;" and responsive

Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—PO Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220
It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!



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.



The Board of Directors has vacancies. If you or someone you know has a special avocation and interest in serving the Oneida Lake community, please contact us.

[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!*