



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

GOT GEESE? As a last reminder, plan on attending the free, OLA-sponsored workshop **March 25**. Agency professionals and experts will be on hand to discuss options available to lakefront homeowners, land and parks managers, and other interested in the escalating growth of resident Canada goose numbers. Starting at 9 AM, talks and a shepherd dog video will take place at **PV Moore High School** in Central Square.

Address: 44 School Dr, Central Square, NY 13036. From the south on Route 11 turn left just past the Post Office on Hillcrest Drive, or one block north turn left on Tucker Road. From the north, at the main triangle intersection of Rt 49, turn right onto County Route 12, take the third left onto Tucker Road. The main entrance is on the north side of the building of Tucker Road.

AGENDA

9:00 **Welcome** (Ed Mills, OLA Director)

9:05 ***Biology, History, and Types of Damage by Resident Canada Geese*** (Paul Curtis, Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Cornell University)

9:30 ***U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Role in Canada Geese Management*** (Chris Dwyer, Migratory Game Bird Biologist, NE Region, US Fish & Wildlife Service)

9:55 ***DEC's Role in Resident Canada Geese Management in New York*** (Josh Stiller, State Waterfowl Biologist, Jim Eckler, NYSDEC Region 8 Waterfowl Biologist and George J. Steele, Captain, Region 7 NYS ENCON Police)

10:45 ***Options for Homeowners and Land Managers in Managing Resident Canada Geese Damage*** (Carl Cranker, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Wildlife Services)

11:30 *A Tale of a Working Dog and Nuisance Geese*(Danny Liedka, Manlius NY)

12:00 *Open: Questions & Answers*

WALLEYE SEASON IS CLOSED from 12:01 AM March 16 through 11:59PM May 5, 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING. May 3 at Gillette Road Middle School in Cicero.

EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS Earth Day is Saturday April 22. Again OLA Directors – and other members who wish to help – will be picking up trash from the Bartel Road exits on I-81 and the angler access trail beneath the bridge. Meet at the end of the off-ramp at 9AM. Bring gloves and an orange/yellow safety vest, if you have one. Bags and pickup sticks will be provided. If you are planning to help, contact George Reck at gkger3474@yahoo.com. If you cannot join us, we encourage you to participate in some other local event, for instance the one in Bridgeport BLCO-CNY@twcny.rr.com. Remember that while this Saturday is the 'official' day, every day should be an Earth day to responsibly preserve some element of today's environment for tomorrow.

Spring is about to spring. Some near-shore tulips emerged in the warmth of March 4, 2017. February 29 last year brought the beginning of breakup when strong winds started shifting the ice pack. Ice-out was not final until the end of March. This year ice started to go Feb 23 and was essentially gone by February 26, but following record high temperatures March 1 a cold snap caused the lake to refreeze a few days later. A week later another thaw began, opening wide leads and moving ice east then west. Then a real cold snap refroze the lake overnight March 11.

ALL WATER MATTERS!



CREEK OR CRICK?

Hydrologists and engineers know that water flows downstream and that the right bank is the starboard one when facing downstream. Anglers and paddlers may assert "alternative facts" in representing their orientations in the stream. But what is a river, a stream, a creek, and a crick? Excerpting Patrick F. McManus's "A Fine and Pleasant Misery", maybe we can clear up the confusion



If there is any doubt that the sustained research conducted by the Cornell University teams working out of the Biologic Research Station on Shackleton Point has international reaches, you might want to view this video on walleye stocking <http://www.scout.com/outdoors/fishing/story/1689026-stocking-walleye>

The Cornell Biologic Research Station

overcricks and creeks.

First of all a creek has none of the raucous, vulgar, freewheeling character of a crick. If they were people, creeks would wear tuxedos and amuse themselves with the ballet, opera, and witty conversation. Crick would go around in their undershirts and amuse themselves with the Saturday night fights, taverns and humorous belching. Creeks would perspire and cricks sweat. Creeks would smoke pipes; cricks chew and spit.

Creeks tend to be pristine. They meander regally through high mountain meadows, cascade down dainty waterfalls, pause in placid pools, ripple off beds of gleaming gravel and polished rock. They sparkle in the sunlight. Deer and poets sip from creeks, and images of eagles wheel upon the surface of their mirrored depths.

Cricks, on the other hand, shuffle through cow pastures, slog through beaver dams, gurgle through culverts, ooze through barnyards, sprawl under sagging bridges, and when not otherwise occupied, thrash fitfully on their beds of quicksand and clay. Cows should perhaps be credited with giving cricks their most pronounced characteristic. In deference to the young and the few ladies left in the world whose sensitivities might be offended, I forgo a detailed description of this characteristic. Let me say only that to a cow the whole universe is a bathroom, and it makes no exception of cricks. A single cow, equipped only with determination and fairly good aim, can in a matter of hours transform a perfectly good creek into a crick.

Many of us always heard the words "God willing and the crick don't rise." For some people, that's the pronunciation of "creek," not actually a variant word. Used as a sign-off tag line of the 1930's radio broadcaster and Kentuckian Bradley Kincaid, the phrase became popular as a supposedly hayseed utterance. Indeed to some people, growing up with new-fangled TV westerns in the 1950s the phrase was common parlance.

The etymology of the phrase "God willing, and the creek don't rise." is often attributed to Benjamin Hawkins, who was the General Superintendent for Indian Affairs between 1796 and 1818 for the U.S. Government. Hawkins, college-

story is chronicled in last year's book **"Oneida Lake: Long-Term Dynamics of a Managed Ecosystem and Its Fishery"** published by the American Fisheries Society

FEDERAL DE-REGULATION PROPOSALS

The OLA Directors are monitoring a White House proposal to cut EPA's budget. An included line would virtually eliminate annual Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding, slashing it from \$300 million to \$10 million among other cuts that would altogether reduce the EPA's total budget by a quarter.

The GLRI funds state and local projects that combat invasive species, restore wildlife habitats and clean up watersheds polluted by a Rust Belt economic legacy across the eight-state Great Lakes region. It has traditionally enjoyed strong bipartisan support in Congress.

Threatened programs potentially affecting Oneida Lake could include the lamprey treatments, nuisance goose management, threatened tern management, fisheries research, and sewerage system expansions and upgrades. Inter-agency agreements under the GLRI also include competitive grants to mitigate emerald ash borer (EAB) impacts, reduce runoff from degraded sites through green infrastructure, and enhance wetland functions such as runoff filtration and provision of northern pike spawning areas and waterfowl production.

REPEAT REQUEST

Do you have information on past OLA Activities? Mike Sorice (msorice@vt.edu) is part of a team of researchers from Cornell University, University of Wisconsin, and Virginia Tech seeking to understand how lake organizations, like OLA, support lake management and protection activities.

He requests your help in collecting historical information about OLA and other organizations that will assist his team in studying how local lake associations function and interact with

educated and a well-written man, would never have made a grammatical error, so the capitalization of Creek is the only way the phrase could make sense. Allegedly he wrote it in response to a request from the President to return to our Nation's Capital and the reference is not to a creek, but The Creek Indian Nation. If the Creek "rose", Hawkins would have to be present locally to quell the rebellion.

Alternative fact: the phrase doesn't (er, don't?) appear in the collected works of Benjamin Hawkins. So the claim that he capitalized the word Creek is unsupported, apparently. It has nothing to do with the Creek Indians.

The phrase has morphed over possibly hundreds of years, quite often in dialect speech, to what many are familiar with from the 1950s onward. Reportedly Stephen Goranson, one of the premier word/phrase finders over at the American Dialect Society found what the earliest variant attributed in The Doolittle Delegation, to a "Woman's Rights Convention" by Miss L. Virginia Smith, Graham's American Monthly Magazine of Literature, Art, and Fashion v. 38 June 1851:

"Feller-citizens--I'm not 'customed to public speakin' before such highfalutin' audiences.... Yet here I stand before you a speckled hermit, wrapped in the risen-sun counterpane of my popularity, an' intendin', Providence permittin', and the creek do n't rise, to 'go it blind!'"

All this is entertaining, but to those commuting through Rattlesnake Gulch, pay attention. If Butternut 'Crick' floods in Dewitt, Route 298 may be flooded for a few days!

regulatory commissions. There is a history of Oneida Lake management that precedes the 1945 incorporation of the OLA.

If your family has records, written materials, anecdotes, or knowledge that may be of interest to Michael, please contact him within the next few weeks as they schedule trips to CNY to meet with people interested in lake management and protection efforts.

Materials they seek include: old newsletters from other than OLA, other organizations' meeting minutes and notes, letters to legislatures and agencies, newspaper articles, or any other citizen-initiated materials to enhance management and protection of the lake.



We have no update on the status of cormorant management on the lake.

It is unlikely that the USFWS will complete its environmental review and response to the court, or the judge will respond, this summer.

This delay enjoined by the PEER group, as previously reported, can undermine some of the fisheries management research by Cornell. At a time when round goby numbers are exploding in Oneida, we have no knowledge if cormorant diets are changing, or if walleye and perch remain the early season prey targeted by the bird.

POCKET RANGER FOR NEW YORK STATE

As many of us grab our gear to head out to Oneida for a day of fishing, our mental checklist includes not only rods, reel, and tackle, but our electronic gadgets, as well. Chart plotters, depth finders, fish finders, and GPS are all common tools for many fishermen, both ashore and afloat. Your smartphone can also supply a wealth of helpful information. **For those comfortable with using a smartphone, be sure to check out the app called Pocket Ranger.** (Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "New York Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife App"). As the name implies, it's packed with lots of information on hunting and fishing, for all of New York State. Of course, Oneida Lake is a featured spot on the app for plenty of

outdoor activity. The home screen includes a number of placesto tap, depending on your interests: hunting, fishing, bird watching, tracking, etc.

Click on Fishing and you will find info on hundreds offishing spots in the state. To find OneidaLake, go to Lakes and Ponds, then the Central New York Region. Choose "Multiple Counties," and, sure enough,up pops Oneida Lake. From there you canfind Boat Launch sites, contour maps of the bottom, an overview of fishingtechniques, as well as all of the fishing rules and regulations which apply toour lake. Keep in mind that this app wasdeveloped in coordination with the NYS DEC, so it is accurate andup-to-date. Did you just catch a monster perch and want to know ifit's a state record? It's in there. Want a picture of a longnose gar? It's in there. Want to read about state stockingprograms? It's in there. Not sure how much your license will cost? Check it out in the app. There's even a link for you to share apicture of your catch the next time you land that big one!

If you turn on Location Services, the app provides ahandy GPS, as well as a variety of map overlays. There are also a number of news items and alerts onthe app, including fire alert maps, storm information, and air qualityindices. The only drawback of this appis the section on Events. Because itincludes numerous events, the calendar takes a long time to load. You're better off just making your own eventwith your line in the water!Pocket Ranger for New York State. Check it out!

SNOWBIRDS

The annual 'Re-U' letter to members was issued a few weeks ago to 2015 and 2016 members who had not already renewed or signed up at one of sports shows. If you are, or know of an Association member who moves south for the winter, or otherwise has mail forwarded, be aware that a 'Re-Up' letter probably was not seen.

Know that the US Postal Service generally only forwards 1st Class mail and paid periodicals. OLA economically mails its letters 2nd Class; these are not forwarded by the Post Office.

So if you are receiving this email in Florida or Arizona, know that you should go online to our website (click on one of the photos or links) and renew your membership! And bring back some warm sunshine soon!

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.

Donate



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

The Oneida LakeAssociation is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York StateFederation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Report environmentalviolations. Please remember to obeyall laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating,fishing, hunting, and

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