Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

For many of you this is new. Members joining (or re-joining) this Spring and Summer who provided an email address are now receiving this newsletter, and will continue to do so as long as dues are paid and a sustained interest in electronic news is indicated. Many of you have also indicated that you wish to receive the OLA Bulletin electronically; the next issue will be so linked in an email addressed to those who marked the 'check' box on your membership card. If you change your mind, drop a note to info@oneidalakeassociation.org.

The Board of Directors also maintains a 'Friends' list to whom this ENews is sent, even though many agency, legislative, and institutional persons are not OLA members. We understand the fiscal constraints on these agency friends. We encourage them to share the OLA ENews (if their server allows) with coworkers, but ask that if our Friends or their friends avail themselves of time on our wonderful lake, that they consider opening the link below to our website, and joining as a member.

For all members and friends, if there are issues you would like covered in monthly ENews, or you come across some salient piece of news that may be of interest to other members, please contact one of the OLA Directors or Officers.

TIDBITS

Check out someimprovements to the website. A newsearch tool and some content changes reflect member input that makes our sitemore functional.

OLDTIMERS: If you know of anyone who has been keeping adiary of “lake events,” Cornell asks for your assistance. Contact researcher Tamar Law tl432@cornell.eduor 607-229-3402. She is collecting anecdotal scientific records that might be associated with aboriginal and contemporary knowledge.

TEACHERS: SUNY Morrisville needs a water resources instructor this semester. Dr. Victor Okereke decided to retire effective at theend of this month. An instructor would cover ENVT 100 - Intro Environmental Technology “A study ofthe basic concepts of water pollution control, air pollution control, and solidwaste management" and is ENSC 101 - Agricultural Science “Basic introductionto general agricultural and life science principles as an aid to theunderstanding of plant, animal and soil functions, as well as fundamentalcomputations as applied to agricultural production".

If you know of anyone who might be interested inteaching either one of these classes, please have them contact Bill Snyder, snyderw@morrisville.edu, as soon aspossible.

KUDOS: Ahearty "thank you" to the following people who volunteered to participate inthe OLA water chestnut weed pull July 29. Collectivelyabout 4 canoe loads of maybe 30 bushels of water chestnut were pulled from thearea around Big Bay Creek and the dug channels of Poddygut Bay. No water chestnuts were found from Poddyguteast through Three Mile Bay. Othervolunteers will be harvesting the established weeds west of Big Bay Creek anddown the Oneida River, and the new infestation east of Lewis Point. On the date of harvest, the nuts were not yetmature. In areas where we have beendiligent in years past the population from dormant nuts seems to bereduced.

Again, kudos to DirectorsWarren Darby, George Reck, Greg Keener, Scott Shupe and helpers Dan Pabis, JoeChairvolotti, Joe Dyson, Pete Vitiello, Kiersten Williams, Roy Widrig, Craig Stroh,Bob Asmus, Ray Chittenden, Tony Husak, Sheryl Hoyt, Cindy Kuda, Geoffrey Reck,and grandfather George G. Reck.

A water chestnut weed pull willtake place at Lewis Point August 23 at 9AM. This is a new location. If youare nearby, free for an hour or two, and want to assist, please contact eitherRoy Widrig rlw294@cornell.edu or Hilary Mosher MOSHER@hws.edu for information.

In a related note,here is a summary of some important Cornell research underway, similar to thescope of the research twenty years ago that enabled the release of weevils thatfeed on only purple loosestrife. See an-update-on-water-chestnut-biocontrol-research

Cornell's researchersindicate that fish catch rates continue to change. Anglers are reporting creels of 1/4 to 1/3 prior efforts – on gooddays! Lots of fisherpersons are gettingskunked! Plentiful weeds, baitfish, andgobies are taking their toll. It is hardto introduce the grandchildren to fishing. Gone are the days when a kid could dunk a worm off a dock or pier andexcitedly reel in a perch or rock bass. Youngstersdo not believe the fish story that a "mere" 50 years ago one could catch alimit of 10 walleyes and fill a stringer with nice panfish by dangling worms ona good drift along the margins of (then) distinct weed beds.

For those ofyou doing substantive development within our watershed, revisions to earthworkstandards are now available to help lessen the adverse impacts of erosion andsediment in our tributaries. DEChas finalized updates to the ***New York State Standards and Specificationsfor Erosion and Sediment Control*** (Blue Book). The Blue Book providesstandards and specifications for the selection, design and implementation oferosion and sediment control practices for the development of Erosion andSediment Control Plans for the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Dischargesfrom Construction Activity. The document is available for download on the Construction StormwaterToolbox webpage.

Annual Networking Meeting of BOD and Friends

On August 8, theOneida Lake Association hosted its Annual Board of Directors Networking Meetingat Oneida Shores County Park, attended by nearly 80. Represented included members of area lawenforcement, the NYSDEC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, New York StateCanal Corporation, Cornell, the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and TroutAssociation, Onondaga County Soil

and Water Conservation District, SUNY-ESF,NYSDEC, the Tug Hill Commission, Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club, OnondagaEnvironmental Institute, Finger Lakes PRISM, and state, county, and townlegislators.

According to OLA PresidentScott Shupe, *"This meeting provided anopportunity to review and discuss many opportunities and integrate needs forresponses to topics related to the health and welfare of Oneida Lake and itsusers."* This year's themewas oriented around law enforcement, regulations, and safety.

Dropping in was Air 1, the helicopter fromthe Onondaga Sheriffs Department, and its 4-man team. Alighting in a landing zone laid out by theBrewerton VFD, the pilot and flight officer gave a brief talk, detailing someof their special skills and capabilities, many of which have been applied tolake rescues.

Speakers relayedinsight about individual topics ranging from the threats from invasive speciessuch as water chestnut and round gobies, beach closures, nuisance geese, fishpiracy, lake water level management, public safety at fishing platforms, civicprojects such as new boat launches, public access points, and the ClevelandPier enhancement.

Based on conversationswith State Senator David Valesky, Cicero Town Supervisor Mark Venesky, andOswego County Legislator Roy Reehil, the OLA Board is planning more meetingswith elected representatives to advance mutual understanding of several topics.

Town of Sullivan'sKerry Ranger announced that, after being approached by OLA last year, the Townexpects to have a web camera installed at Chapman Park Pier by year's end.

NYSDEC's Region 6 Fishery Manager Frank Flackannounced that the Department is also making progress on final designs for thelong-awaited Cove Road launch site.

Oswego Co Legislator Roy Reehil & friends

Pilot and flight crew explain Air-1's capabilities

NYS Senator David Valesky speaks

OLA Directors Asmus, Colesante, & Shupe

WHO KNEW? Every full moon has a name. The one on August 18 is the Sturgeon Moon or Red Moon.

ALGAE

Did you ever wonderwhat that slimy, green gunk is that clogs your leader and hooks when you arecasting through weed beds and rocks in July? It is *Cladophora*, vigorouslygrowing until it starts to rot off and float ashore in August winds. Read more here, courtesy of the Finger LakesPRISM. https://flihappenings.wordpress.com/2016/07/22/research-connections-invasive-species-and-benthic-algae-in-the-finger-lakes/

Did you ever wonder why the lake changes colors sooften? Aside from blooms and stains ofsediment-laden water entering from the creeks after a rainstorm, there areother dynamics in play. Water clarityand climate affect water temperature profiles and ice dynamics of thelake. Hydrodynamic modelling of the lake(covered in detail in Chapter 14 of *OneidaLake: Long-Term Dynamics of a Managed Ecosystem and Its Fishery*, L.Rudstam *et alia*, 2016, AFS) suggest thatcurrents move the algae blooms around. Acalm period producing a bloom on the south shore in a hot afternoon will moveoffshore in the evening when off-shore breezes put the surface waters to thenorth. Upwelling currents cause thewaters near shore to clear up, not to be clouded up until the next late morningwhen winds gently shift in from the northeast.

On other days thestronger winds may kick up whitecaps. These waves change the current directions below the surface. Both the waves and currents cloud the water. Thermal differences between depths influence the currents, andclarity. Shoal areas of the lake (lessthan about 15 feet) cover about 26% of the lake bottom. Waves actually “feel" the bottom in thisand deeper waters. In doing so, theyre-suspend the organic and inorganic muck lying on the rocks and vegetationdown to depths of about 8-9 times the length of the surface waves. The larger the waves, and longer the durationof windier days, the more cloudy the water becomes and stays. Temperature and oxygen stratification changes,inducing planktonic and fisheries responses to the local water chemistry. Some anglers will “follow the stains,”fishing the margins.

The chapter endsits modeling discussion suggesting that Oneida Lake (not surprisingly) respondsin sync not with El Nino, but indeed with meteorological changes of the NorthAtlantic Oscillation Index. This is arelationship of normalized sea level pressure between Lisbon, Portugal andReykjavik, Iceland since 1864.

AsEarth's climate continues to change (Oneida and Cazenovia Lakes' ice coverduration have a diminishing trend), the model suggests water clarity will causethe average heat content of the lake (and bottom sediments) to warm potentiallyby 7-25%. Possibly by 2090 the lake mayfreeze over only one month! Lake watertemperature stratification and season currents induced by winds may varygreatly between years. As the lake'sprimary production of phytoplankton changes, the cold water species already indecline will be adversely affected. Zoo plankton abundance and timing changesmay open ecological niches for new invasive species to become established. As the lake has changed greatly in the last50 years, in another 50 it probably will look quite different from today! It may also be shallower as sediment accumulates from erosion of the uplands into its tributaries.

Every day on thelake is different. Get out, look around,and enjoy it!

SAFETY

STORMSAFETY:BoatUS has three safety tips for any mariner or angler facing apowerful, summer thunderstorm:
1. **Don't let your guard down:** "Sometimes during the summer we see boaters lulled into a sensethat calm seas always prevail, but these kayakers were prepared," saysTowBoatUS Ft. Lauderdale spokesman Barney Hauf. "They had life jackets on,carried a handheld VHF radio and a Personal Locator Beacon."
2. **Don't leave the boat:** While caught out on the open water and unable to seek cover, thepaddlers stayed with their overturned vessels. "They fastened themselvesto each other and to their equipment to stay together," said CaptainReuss. Staying with an overturned boat gives rescuers a larger target to find.3. **Watch your weight:** Small craft are most prone to overloading. SaysBoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner,"Kayaks weighted with a lot of gear can lose buoyancy. No matter what kindof boat, know your vessel's capacity rating."

Thislast point is important especially for small craft on Oneida Lake. On a windy, but fair weather Saturday inmid-July, disaster was averted when a 16-fishing boat capsized while headingback to the South Shore Launch, directly into westerly whitecaps. Bow-heavy with a trolling motor, battery, andgear stowed forward, and a couple of big boys aft, the boat swamped as a wavecame over the bow. Citizen firstresponders got the party and boat to shore, without injury or further incident. Watch not just weight, but also the relativeheights of waves to your freeboard, and keep your speed down to maintaincontrol.

SAFETYASHORE:Yes, you adjust your mirrors after you fastenyour seat belt. But what about that walkin the woods? I recently re-read the *Tick Management Handbook, Bulletin No. 1010*from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. You might want to look at this information onwww.ct.gov.caes.

This75-page text has some great graphics, descriptions of tick life cycles,diseases, avoidance and risk reduction measures, and some Integrated PestManagement (IPM) methods to consider around the house. August and September are the months ofgreatest seasonal activity of *Ixodes scapularis*,the blacklegged tick that gives us Lyme disease.

Did you know that this disease was noted inEurope ages ago? It is likely thatreforestation of the Northeast in the last hundred years (and general landscapeconversions from open agriculture) contributed to increased vector populations(mice, chipmunks, deer) to spread the disease-causing bacteria that are in the tick's gut. Be careful out there.

Also, learn to identify giant hogweed, cow parsnip, and poison ivy! The rashes from these plants can maim for weeks or life!

And keep your cellphone in aziplock bag, close to hand!

SEWER EXTENSIONS – ONEIDA LAKE

Here are clarifications tolast month's mention of sewer districts, based on projects listed on NYSDEC'sregister.

Toad Harbor Sewer District – This project willconnect 102 residents and 3 commercial properties to a sewer line thatwill discharge to a pump station located on the northwestern shore of OneidaLake. The pump station will convey sewage through a force main that will beanchored to the bottom of Oneida Lake in the Big Bay area. This area is low andwet and has had historical problems with on-site septic systems. Theproject will also pick up users in the Big Bay Sewer District and abandon theaging Big Bay Sewer wastewater treatment facility that discharges treatedeffluent to Big Bay. Wastewater will ultimately be conveyed to the FortBrewerton Sewage District Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) and discharge tothe Oneida River. The Fort Brewerton WWTF will be undergoing upgrades toincrease capacity to handle the additional wastewater flow. Currentlyupgrades for the Fort Brewerton WWTF are under design. Design for thecollection systems portion of this project were approved by NYSDEC. Completionof this project was expected to take place in 2016 or 2017, but there was alawsuit by Atlantic States Legal Foundation that has resulted in a delay andpotential loss of funding that was tied to now-missed milestones.

Town of Constantia Sewer District – Thisproject will provide public sewers for approximately 2,750 people, with many lakesideresidents in the Town of Constantia. This is another area that has hadhistorical problems with on-site sewage disposal systems. Plans for thecollection system were approved by NYSDEC. A Preliminary EngineeringReport was completed by Barton and Loguidice that evaluated options for theConstantia Sewer District. Options include: Building a new WastewaterPlant in Constantia and sending flows to the Village of Cleveland. According the engineering report, sending flows to the Cleveland WWTF would bethe most cost effective option. Similar to the Toad Harbor project, options arecurrently being explored for upgrading the Cleveland WWTF to handle additionalflows.

Town ofSullivan –The Town of Sullivan has completed a Lakeport extension to sewer to the Route31 corridor west into Bridgeport and lakeside residents on Hitchcock Point inthe Town of Sullivan. Wastewater is conveyed to the East Oneida LakeSewage Treatment Facility located on Fish Creek in the Village of SylvanBeach. Sewer connections in this district are still on-going; approximately450 of 650 connections have been completed. Adraft Preliminary Report evaluating sewering the last remaining portion ofun-sewered lakeside residents in the Town of Sullivan was recently completed.This project is located approximately between Chapman Park and the South ShoreBoat launch. The Town of Sullivan is currently exploring funding options tocomplete this work. However, it is reported that the costs perinstallation would be nearly double the Route 31 project costs, and that theTown appears financially challenged to advance the effort at this time.

From the WildlifeManagement Institute: WMI began conducting athorough review and evaluation of the Tracking and Reporting Actions for theConservation of

Species (TRACS) system. This review, commissioned by the UnitedStates Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Association of Fish and WildlifeAgencies (AFWA) is critical for the continued long-standing support for theWildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, which administers funds tostates from the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Dingell-Johnson Act, and StateWildlife Grants, among others. This review is necessary in order to maximizethe likelihood of achieving the common vision for TRACS among all partners andto minimize undue burdens placed upon the partners due to misinterpretation ormiscommunication. ReadMore >>

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Website Who We Are What We Do How to Help

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. Report environmental violations. ***1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)***

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