



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

Temporary Closure of Launch begins Wednesday, Aug. 21

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the South Shore boat launch site located on Oneida Lake will be closed for up to two days next week due to maintenance. The launch, located east of the hamlet of Bridgeport in the town of Sullivan, Madison County, is expected to be closed for up to two days beginning Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019.

The OLA BOD at its August 12 invitational Networking Meeting discussed the following topics and actionable items:

- Introductions by attendees, and what they valued most about Oneida Lake
- Planning for the 75th Annual Meeting next Spring
- NYSP sonar unit used in underwater recoveries
- NEP update by Aimee Clinkhammer of NYSDEC-DOW
- Upstate Freshwater Institute and Cornell's overview of NEP data scrubbing
- Seismic survey of Oneida Lake's bottom sediments and bedrock profile
- BSA Eagle candidate Conner Finke's Oneida Shores Boat Launch Kiosk

Please visit the websites to review speakers' respective PowerPoint presentations.

Attendees included Sarah Bormann from Anthony Brindisi's office, members of the Madison, Oneida, and Onondaga County Sheriffs Departments; NYSDEC Enforcement Officers, Natural Resources, and Fisheries staff; town governments; Cornell; Canals, Parks; Onondaga County Parks; county SWCD's; Tug Hill Commission, several past presidents, and most of the current Board.

When asked what they liked about OLA and Oneida Lake, here are some of the responses:

- sunrises and sunsets
- great soft water fishing by tournament and recreational anglers

- ice fishing
- wonderfully extensive body of research by Cornell and others
- duck hunting
- recreational boating with the family, especially the grandchildren
- the hatchery and its record & value to NYS
- my job (echoed by many!)

Clockwise from upper left, Aimee Clinkhammer of DEC's Finger Lakes Watershed Hub talking 9 Element Planning, Nick Zaremba of SU-ESF talking lakebed surveying, Eagle Scot Connor Finke' kiosk poster, and Troopers Greg Eberl and Don Will with the NYSP sonar 'fish'. Lars Rudstrum and Dave Matthews were not photographed, but their NEP-associated data talks are captured on the webpage for the 2019 OLA's Networking Meeting at www.oneidalakeassociation.org



Cove Road Update

Last month our report was in error. The Cove Road work has NOT delayed by the new launch above Massena. **Jana Lantry**, Region 6 Fisheries Manager, notified us that *The Grass River Boat Launch off of Rt 37 is part of the Alcoa/Arconic consent decree, has been about 6 years in the making, Arconic is paying for it, and it has nothing to do with the Cove Road launch. Cove Road launch is definitely a priority for R6!*

Jana is preparing a report for the next issue of ENews and will report as soon as site clearing begins,

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, a necessary step in plans to rehabilitate the launch, Park Superintendent Gary Lopez informed us that Troop 3112 Eagle Scout candidate Connor Finke is planning,

designing, and managing the construction of a new display at the boat launch.

Connor met with the Board on August 12 and presented his plans and schedule for civil work this fall/winter and display completion next spring. This will be a roofed kiosk with 6 X 6's footed in concrete displaying Oneida Lake safety and environmental information on one side, and Oneida Shores and county information on the other. All information will emphasize the lake's influence on CNY.

With bottle drives, popcorn sales, and donations, Connor has raised about \$400 toward the \$1600 estimate, and has established a GoFundMe page. If you are able to assist, please contact Conner's father, Christopher Finke at cfinke2010@gmail.com.

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 work plan, 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 19th. 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.

Dave Matthews of the Upstate Freshwater Institute and Lars Rudstrum of Cornell showed and discussed slides and an overview of data collected so far. This data (1) presents the qualitative basis to index present and future relationships for invasives, climate change, and nutrient-sediment changes, (2) validation to support the NEP, and (3) support for funding opportunities beyond the National Science Foundation's and Cornell's historical contributions.

We learned from Dave, Nick Zaremba, Christopher Scholz, and Carl Guerreschi that sediments are the tape recorder of lake history on a year-to-year level of change. Oneida Lake is the remnant of Pleistocene Lake Iroquois. Once the ice front retreated and Iroquois discharged down the Mohawk, and later the St. Lawrence, the

world changed! Cold flows were of sufficient volume to not only reshape the Mohawk-Hudson valleys, but to also alter the Gulf Stream! As the discharges in multiple (3 or more times?) glacial retreat periods stopped heat transfer across the Atlantic, extended (lasting for centuries) periods of cold weather spread across Europe for centuries between 18 and 8 thousand years ago. Local seismic data can then be compared with paleoclimatic records from around the world.

The bedrock of Oneida Lake was scoured by the glaciers to a depth near present day sea level. Seismic surveying done in August of this year indicates that sediments above the bedrock show a history of underwater mudflows/landslides and layers of intermittently fine (winter) then coarse (summer) sediments accumulating each year. These *varves* of winter/summer records are assembled like pages of an incomplete book in chapters by centuries and millennia. That book tells a story of fantastic, high resolution cores containing Oneida Lake data. This is instructive to those interested in, and able to synthesize, geochemical, paleobiotic, seismic, and hydrologic/hydraulic history, and then to relate it to present and future lake-area changes in topography and biota.

Aimee indicated that only 2 NEP's have been completed for NYS, and 6 more are in the que behind Oneida Lake's plan. As yet NYDOS has not yet approved a contract and funding of our Plan, but we anticipate action before year's end to sustain momentum. Meanwhile, we learned that Madison County SWCD is starting to inventory erosion prone sites along tributaries that are contributing to the sediment load entering the lake.

As the SU-ESF seismic study and core samples are analyzed, we expect to learn how contemporary sediments build in comparison to seasonal layering built since the glaciers retreated.

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 ask Oswego, Oneida, and Madison Counties for similar updates from the adjoining Districts.

- **EPF-25 Prospects (65 grant /35 landowner cost-share):** *The following have been written into NYS Environmental Protection Fund Round 25 grant application (submitted July 22)*
- **LaFayette (BEEF) – Grants submitted and Continual Tier 3A Planning** Projected BMP's: WASCOb's and Underground Outlet System
- **Fabius (BEEF), – AEM Tier 3A Planning** Projected BMP's: Heavy Use Area Protection - barnyard, non-concrete stabilized pad, access road, and clean water exclusion.
- **Fabius (BEEF) NY – AEM Tier 3A Planning** Projected BMP's: Barnyard and Pasture Grazing Management System.
- 4 miles of municipally cleaned road ditch hydroseeded in watershed to create coefficient of friction that drops sediment/pollutants out of the water before reaching streams, wetlands, and the lake

During the week of July7 Director George Reck was contacted by OLA member, Patricia Koch regarding a missing or displaced hazard/navigation buoy in Maple Bay. In response, a call was placed to Corey Redditt of the NYS, Department of Parks in Romulus, NY.

Mr. Redditt and his crew responded promptly, by traveling over an hour from the location at Sampson State Park on Seneca Lake. According to Mr. Redditt, a can marker was found lodged on the Hitchcock Point Shoal after it had drifted toward shore, being struck by a boat. Propeller marks were found on the buoy and the chain used to secure the marker had been severed from its anchor. The buoy was repaired and relocated to its position at the head of the Hitchcock Point Shoal. The staff of the **NYS Parks department is to be commended for the quick and professional response** to a hazardous condition. Ms. Koch is to be commended also for her notifying the OLA of this dangerous condition.

Be mindful of [lake hazards](#), and consult this [reference](#).

DEC now is promoting its new interactive map that provides access to DEC documents and public data about New York's environment and outdoor recreation resources.

To access the mapping application, visit the [DECinfo Locator web page](#). Learn more about its features from the [DECinfo Locator Tutorial on YouTube](#)

DEC is also encouraging New York **pool owners** to participate in DEC's annual [Asian Longhorned Beetle Swimming Pool Survey](#). This is the time of year when these exotic, invasive beetles are most active outside of their host tree. The goal of the survey is to look for these pests that cause serious damage to our forests and street trees. They have caused the death of hundreds of thousands of trees across the country. **DEC is requesting that people with swimming pools periodically check their pool filters for any insects that resemble ALB.**

It is that time of year when the purple martins have (8/10) headed south, *Potamogeton amplifolius* - large-leaf pondweed, bass weed, musky weed - is becoming overly mature and tangling cast lines, and the *Vallisneria americana* - wild celery, eel grass, tape grass - is coming on strong . The stable flies are biting ankles, meteors and fireflies light the evening sky, black-eyed Susans dominate flower gardens, Japanese beetles are defoliating grapes, and folks start talking State Fair. Can 'the night bite' be only two months away?

Cleaning up the Lake

OLA again is facilitated a **weed pull** to manage Invasive, alien, water chestnut in several locations where the nuisance plant has been identified by members.

Director Carl Ford organized the south shore pull on July 12. He reports *On Friday July 12, OLA once again sponsored an Oneida Lake weed pull as part of Invasive Species Week. This event focused on Lewis Point and Oneida Lake Marina at the Lake's east end and resulted in 323 pounds of the invasive plant being harvested. As a result of our ongoing efforts, this amount was significantly lower than in past years. OLA expresses appreciation for the efforts of participants from the Finger Lakes Institute and New York State Parks, as well as business owners McCraith Beverage and Oneida Lake Marina for providing access and vegetation disposal.*



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.

Member Jack Frost sent along this historical note:

Fort Brewerton was built by New York artisans, carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths under the direction of the British in the spring of 1759. The fort was strategically located at the west end of Oneida Lake where it meets the Oneida River. The fort consisted of an eight pointed star earthwork and a twelve foot tall log palisade and four L shaped log barracks designed to accommodate a garrison of up to 150 soldiers.

The fort was one of many forts built to protect the supply route from the Great Carry to Fort Ontario and eventually to Fort Niagara.

The first British Regular Regiment was a company of the 44th Regiment of Foot and a detachment of His Majesties Independent coy. of Rangers. (Rogers Rangers as commanded by Lt. Joseph Waite). They arrived in 1759.

The British continued to occupy the fort through the autumn of 1765. The British then turned the fort over to civilians who utilized it as a Trading Post. Finally the fort burnt to the ground due to a chimney fire in 1766.

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 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

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

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

For now, chase walleyes in depths above the thermocline, for Cornell reports deeper waters are anoxic.

MEMBER QUESTIONS?

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

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!