



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

The lake finally froze completely across overnight December 26-27. Within days ice anglers tested the bays where ice first appeared. By early January mid-lake anglers were reporting good catches. Be careful out there, as the weather swings this winter are likely to cause thin ice areas, cracks, and pressure ridges to form. Especially beyond the creek mouths. A couple of snowmobilers have already taken an unanticipated plunge.

WHAT'S UP?



By the end of January we should have access to another online camera system. This initiative was suggested by the OLA Board two years ago. Sullivan Supervisor John Becker advised us that the Town purchased a weather station and camera earlier this year, but has been awaiting for months for Spectrum to schedule the installation of cable into Chapman Park. Once online, and linked *via* the OLA website, users will be able to view the pier area and read local weather conditions. The Town's station and website will be networked to other weather stations. OLA thanks the residents of the Town for allowing all persons physical access to the park, and now enabling some virtual access to the lake as well!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITIES

In February the BOD will be hearing presentations by the Onondaga, Madison, and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We hope to learn more about measures to identify and remediate sources of sediment and debris entering the lake from its southern tributaries. Upstream erosion is a concern for not only water discoloration after each storm, but also the nutrient load and navigation hazards caused by local flooding.

The BOD has also voted to increase OLA dues to \$8 per year. BOD members will be explaining this move at the January Sports Show. Dues last increased from \$3 to \$5 in July 2005. As illustrated in the last *Bulletin*, operational cost associated with

membership drives and communications has challenged the Board, and forced this modest increase. We thank our many members who will continue to support us at this level.

Look for a new OLA brochure to be released at the Great American Sports Show at the NY State Fair Grounds the weekend of January 26.

The BOD was advised that NYSDEC has no plans to pursue a ban on the sale or purchase of panfish caught from Oneida Lake. Remember that it is illegal to sell walleye and crappie. In NYS the purchase or sale is illegal for fish species for which there is no closed season and no minimum length. Sale is allowable only if taken outside of New York State or if legally taken with licensed commercial gear.

If you have an interest in becoming a Board Member in the future, please contact any current Director.

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



Waterfowl Diseases

Contemporary with the end of the fall hunting season on the lake was arrival of the *Smithsonian* magazine. Content of the issue included a story on influenza. Reflecting on the link with migrating waterfowl, and one mallard harvested that week, I hope that you enjoy these paragraphs even though they are not "lake-centric." Raise an eyebrow and think about how quickly today's commerce moves hitchhiking invasive species and diseases around the world.

Examples include the nice drake mallard that was infested by a parasite. Called "rice breast," this contamination is *Sarcocystis*, a nonfatal, usually asymptomatic infection that is caused by a parasitic protozoan, *Sarcocystis rileyi*.

The *Sarcocystis* sp. parasites have an indirect life cycle that requires a paratenic or transport host animal (a bird), in which they live for a time before they are transported to a definitive host animal (a carnivore), in which they reach maturity. Birds ingest the eggs or oocysts of the mature parasite in food or water that is contaminated by carnivore feces, which contain the oocysts. The oocysts develop in the intestine of the bird into an intermediate form, the sporozoites, that enter the bird's bloodstream and infect specific cells of the blood vessels. Multiplication of these cells gives rise to a second intermediate form, merozoites, that are carried by the blood to the voluntary muscles, where elongated cysts or macrocysts are eventually produced. The life cycle is completed when a carnivore ingests the infected muscle tissue of a bird and the parasite reaches maturity and releases oocysts in the intestines of the carnivore. The carnivore is infected only in its intestine.

Dabbling ducks (mallard, northern pintail, northern shoveler, teal, American black duck, gadwall, and American wigeon) commonly have visible or macroscopic forms of *Sarcocystis* sp.; these forms are far less frequently found in other species of ducks and are infrequently found in geese and swans. Recent studies of Florida's wading birds found high levels of infestation.

Usually, there is no externally visible sign of this disease nor is it recognized as a direct cause of migratory bird mortality. There are no known control methods for this disease, nor do any seem to be needed or are any being developed. Control of sarcocystis would require interruption of the life cycle of the parasite. Infestation presents no known health hazard to humans. The primary importance to humans of sarcocystis in waterfowl is the loss of infected birds for food; the unaesthetic appearance of parasitized muscle may prompt hunters to discard the carcass.

The November issue of *Smithsonian* contained an interesting article about the flu. Author John Barry's research reports that Haskell County, Kansas, located in the southwest corner of the state near Oklahoma and Colorado, was the origin of the 1918 H1N1 influenza epidemic. The local outbreak occurred in January, and by the time it was 'contained' in 1919 25.8 million people had been infected, 670 thousand died, life expectancy dropped by 12 years, and 50 percent of military deaths in WWI were caused by the flu.

A local doctor -Loring Miner –had an intellectual curiosity before germ theory was widely embraced. He noticed that one after another, in rapid succession, a number of residents became quite sick. Then that early winter, over a period of weeks, the doctor recorded "most everybody over the country is having lagrippe or pneumonia." Unknowingly, several men who had been exposed to the flu went to Camp Funston in central Kansas to prepare for war. Within two weeks 1,100 soldiers were infected, 38 died. Soldiers were being transferred across the country, and 24 of 36 camps had outbreaks. Tens of thousands of soldiers were infected before carrying the disease overseas.

Haskell County sits on a major migration flyway for 17 bird species, including sand hill cranes and mallards. In 1918 many folks still lived in sod houses on the arid prairie trying to survive – many by hog farming. Today science knows that bird influenza viruses, like human influenza viruses, can also infect hogs. When a bird virus and a human virus infect the same pig cell, their different genes can be shuffled and exchanged like playing cards. The result can be a new, perhaps lethal, virus.

The influenza virus mutates rapidly, so the human immune system often cannot recognize and attack it from one season to the next. A pandemic occurs when an entirely new and virulent virus enters the world population. When will the next pandemic hit again? And will waterfowl be the vector?

If you have not gotten a flu shot - Do So!

Sure, the ice fishermen are now happy!

For those who do not venture onto the ice, or are not in CNY for the winter, and others who await summer, warm your heart by thinking of this circa 1960 photo of 'Pappy Cramer' and his wooden Lyman!

Provided by former OLA Director and lake historian Jack Henke.



Science Trivia

Bacteria not only develop resistance to antibiotics, they also can pick it up from their rivals. Researchers have demonstrated that some bacteria inject a toxic cocktail into their competitors causing cell lysis and death. Then, by integrating the released genetic material, which may also carry drug resistance genes, the predator cell can acquire antibiotic resistance.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/12/171227100042.htm>

Regular fish consumption has been shown to improve cognition. It's also been known to help with sleep. A new study connects all three for the first time. The team found

that children who eat fish at least once a week sleep better and have higher IQs by an average of 4 points.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/12/171221101341.htm>

Readers may recall last year's review of Cornell's new Oneida Lake book, and a discussion of Daphnia. Now a new report suggests that changing carbon dioxide levels in lakes affects the tiny water crustacean, leaving them less able to sense and defend themselves against predators.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180111141736.htm>

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.

**Pay your dues, recruit your non-member neighbors and friends, and
HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!**

Donate



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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)**