



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIVITIES

At the February BOD meeting Mark Burger from the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District spoke of agricultural and forest land use programs in Onondaga, Oneida, and Lewis Counties to curtail pollutant and sediment movement off our uplands and into Oneida Lake. Oswego's Joe Chairvolotti spoke of similar programs, and Anne Saltman addressed the Central New York Regional Planning Boards 9-Point Plan. This plan (*once NYS Department of State frees up the promised funding*) will collect and analyze data from around the lake. It seeks to model the lake tributaries, identify sources of contamination, and to determine what specifically is needed to curtail existing and future lake pollution.

The BOD continues discussion of the interrelationship of sediment and nutrients entering the lake with algae blooms. As several ENews articles have previously outlined, these three issues are nothing new to the lake. But perceptions are changing as the lake and its clientele change. Over the next couple of years, with assistance from CNRPB and from universities and agencies, the Board hopes to facilitate educational programs (Annual Meeting speakers, workshops, seminars, Bulletin articles, etc) to engage our Members and the public to better understand a perspective of Oneida Lake's unique regional issues and importance.

As reported earlier, OLA submitted a letter to the Town of Cicero regarding the proposed apartment complex off Lakeshore Road. (Click on [Apartment Complex](#)). We believe that our message was well received by the planners.

The date and place are firm. **The 2018 Annual Members Meeting will be Wednesday May 2 at CNS Gillette Road Middle School. SAVE THE DATE.**

GOT A PROBLEM WITH NUISANCE GEESE? It is the time of year to begin planning and organizing information for application to permit a neighborhood goose roundup during the early summer flightless period. Review last March's Nuisance Goose Workshop information posted to the website
<http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/special-events.htm>

While is a bit early for the geese to arrive, the perch and pike are biting. Please open this link and **have a safe, fun time on the ice.** <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/112660.html>

If you have an avocational interest in Oneida Lake, and **wonder about becoming a Board Member** in the future, please contact any current Director. In the next two years we anticipate two or more opportunities, and are especially interested in having someone with analytical, technical, and/or legal and regulatory experience join us.

NYSDEC Region 6 reports that the Cove Road Boat Launch conceptual design and estimate is just about done with the update. Once this preliminary step is completed, the next step will be to create the detailed design for the project. This facility, to be built on the Barge Canal north shore near the outlet of Fish Creek has been an OLA agenda item since 1989. A couple of years ago the BOD renewed an effort to elicit response from the state agencies, and we were encouraged to learn last year that this is a top priority in the Region. Although we are not at the point of having a construction schedule yet, we are making progress.

The BOD hopes to have a dedication ceremony early in the next Governor's term.

In other news, hopefully there will be new R6 Fisheries Manager on the job in about two months.

DEC has a "take" permit in hand for Cormorant adult bird removal (220/year). That is a three-year permit, 2018 is year two. DEC also submitted a permit application to allow it to take up to 80 nests on Oneida Lake if approved.

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

The 're-up' letter with new membership cards will be out soon.

Member R.McK. sent along this note relating to our earlier ENews articles.

"I read with interest Mark Cregg's article on Rattlesnake Gulch. A number of years ago on my way home from work, I passed something on the west side of Rt. 298. I turned around and went back to see what had grabbed my attention. There along side the roadway was a snake that had the front (about 6 inches) run over. The rear of the snake was swinging back and forth. There was a small what appeared to be a duckling laying outside the body. The snake itself had many colored bands. I could plainly see fangs protruding from the jaws of the snake. It had a small set of rattles on its tail. I was too chicken to pick up the snake and put it in my car. I came back a little later and found it flattened. I still should of brought it home, which I still regret to this day that I didn't."

If any of our readers have interesting anecdotes or ideas for articles, please contact us! It is nice to know we are reaching some of you with "memories!"

We have learned that past efforts to curtail populations of invasive fanwort in Kasoag Lake (an upstream Fish Creek water source connected to Oneida Lake) and water

chestnut in the Big Bay/Toad Harbor/inter-bridge area of Oneida Lake may be paying off. Joe Chairvolotti reported that treatments and harvesting of these pests over the last few years seems to have reduced the biomass of surviving plants.

Members and lake users are urged to be vigilant. Before you head out on the lake this spring, please revisit our website and learn to identify nuisance plants.

Water chestnut

Plants of Oneida Lake

Snow drifts, sand dunes, and such.

A *barchan* is a crescentic-shaped dune with tips extending to the leeward, making the side concave in overhead view and the windward side convex in shape. Dunes in deserts may grow huge in size, but near coasts, lakes, and rivers moisture and vegetation usually interfere with their growth and prevent orderly development. On our landscape, the open lake, snow drifts mimic the *barchan* form of sand dune, and can grow large under the right wind conditions atop smooth ice.

By contrast, for those of you fans of desert movies like *Sahara*, *King Solomon's Mines*, or the *Mummy*, the *seif* is a longitudinal dune formed parallel with the wind. Seif chains can be 300-500 kilometers long in Egypt or Iran, and have long, knife-like crest ridges. One side of the crest might be rounded, the other a collapsing slip face at right angles to the prevailing wind.

Dunes are mobile features, independent of either ground form or obstructions. Sand accumulates in a stationary form behind an obstruction like a boulder, brush or cliff in a *sand shadow*. The obstruction interferes with the stream-line air flow, and checks the wind velocity. Sand accumulates to the lee of the boulder until its front slope reaches the angle of repose, about 34 degrees. Then more sand slides down the slip face. You can find sand shadows in streams, downstream of boulders, between where laminar and turbulent flows meet below the threshold velocity needed to carry sand.

Those of you canoeing Fish Creek, or exploring a sand pit will notice sand in layers. You may find sands of different sizes and even gravel. Careful observation and consideration may lead you to the correct conclusion that the deposit is an old riverbed or delta. Stone and gravel layers indicate a higher energy environment, in the middle of an old stream – they are heavy and drop out of the water column, while the finer sands and silts are carried and deposited in a shoreward eddy or inside meander. As the stream center (*thalweg*) moves, different layers and different grain orientation is "fossilized" in the gravel pit deposits.

To take this discussion to the lake next summer, higher energy environments will not have much vegetation or sand. The bays will have dense weeds and water chestnut; plants that can set roots in the muck. There is a relationship between depth and energy. A wave will "feel" bottom to a depth of approximately 9 times its wavelength. Waves remove the fines from much of the south shore, between bays and points, where the prevailing wind keeps the shoreline waters rough.

Over the summer, as you step onto your dock, notice how the stones and fine gravels accumulate, then disappear, and re-accumulate in the first 2-6 feet outside the waterline. Sustained rough wave action rolls the smaller stones outward, while sustained light waves restores your "beach." If you care to lay on your belly and watch, pick out and focus a stone or shell and watch it move in and out and along the shoreline in a sawtooth trace. This is *littoral drift*. Observe the little things in life, and get a nice tan. Share some time with a child watching what is in the water. Not all their time (or yours) should be electronic!

Applications are being accepted for the N.G. Kaul Memorial Scholarship. In honor of the former Director of the Division of Water, up to \$5,000 in scholarships is available to students pursuing graduate or doctoral degrees in environmental/civil engineering or environmental science, concentrating on water quality, who show a commitment to government service. Scholarship Applications are available on the [NYWEA Scholarship website](#).

Applications are due by February 28, 2018.



Science Trivia

Pharmaceuticals and other human-made contaminants are forcing fish that live downstream from a typical sewage treatment plant to work at least 30 per cent harder just to survive. The effort to decontaminate their bodies from pollutants that persist even after water treatment makes fish vulnerable by forcing them to burn energy that would typically go toward other vital functions. Copy and past the following link to read the McMaster University report summary. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180116123744.htm> {*copy and paste the site to your internet explorer*}

There is no simple answer. Review <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180123101934.htm> to learn about some thoughts RE: The big picture of Great Lakes mercury pollution. Do you want PCBs or do you want mercury?

Recent TV news advised that one researcher finds the Earth's magnetic North Pole "racing westerly 55 miles a year" in the earth's core. Poles reversed some 780,000 years ago, and are likely to flip again. Fish and birds may not be able to migrate to spawning sites, and our electric grid could fail, putting us back socially to the Victorian era. <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/2012-poleReversal.html> explains a bit of the phenomenon that could affect life on Earth.

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

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](#)

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)**