



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ACTIVITIES

On March 12, in accordance with By-Laws, 7 Directors were nominated as the slate of 2021 (there is one vacancy) to be elected at the May 2, 2018 Annual Meeting.

The BOD continues discussion of the interrelationship of sediment and nutrients entering the lake with algae blooms. The theme for the Annual Meeting will be **Information - Education - Action**. Consistent with understanding Oneida Lake's unique regional issues and importance, speakers will summarize the walleye egg take, the status of the fisheries, cormorant management plans for the year, and our featured speaker will provide information relative to aspects of local cyanobacteria blooms. As always, there will be a variety of displays and door prizes.

The 2018 Annual Members Meeting will be Wednesday May 2 at CNS Gillette Road Middle School. SAVE THE DATE. Doors open at 6; the meeting starts at 7PM. Bring the kids and a friend!

DIRECTOR VACANCY – CANDIDATES?

One vacancy for a term on the OLA Board of Directors currently exists, and one or two more are anticipated over the next few years. If you, or someone you recommend, are interested in serving the Oneida Lake community, please talk to one of the Directors. The Board would like to have a few avocational resumes on file, for when vacancies arise. We are especially interested in having someone with analytical, technical, and/or legal and regulatory experience join us.

DRONES?

The OLA Board is interested in collecting photographic evidence of sediment entering the lake immediately following a severe rain storm. If anyone has the ability to lawfully and safely fly a drone over the lake beyond the creek mouths to document the plumes of sediment entering the lake, the OLA-BOD would like to see photos/videos.

Former Director and historian Jack Henke provided some **captioned photos** that may interest many of you. Check out this link. [Doc Cramer](#) A smile may form on your face as you may recall wooden boats and classic gear, much less some antique technology known as 'film'!

Thank you Jack!

If others of you have anecdotes or stories of the lake that you wish to share, reach out to us.

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

The 're-up' letter with new membership cards will be out in late March.

WATER QUALITY OF STREAMS AROUND NEW YORK

A number of groups including state and local officials as well as citizen volunteers are monitoring the water quality of streams around New York State. They gathered for a conference at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry to improve communications to interact with each other and the various agencies tasked with water protection.

President Warren Darby reported that "*February 20, 2018, the "Going Green Segment" on Spectrum News highlighted the Water Quality Monitoring Conference that I attended representing OLA last month. Proof that I was there is found at the beginning of this video, where Yours Truly is apparently walking by the media camera! I'm the one wearing the OLA sweatshirt! :-)*

It was a good day of hearing several presentations about CNY waters and what monitoring was presently happening." Watch the video clip. <https://ensemble.syr.edu/Watch/Gb62Dsy4>
Note that Les Monostory, speaking here for his Izaak Walton League, has been a long-time member of OLA.

ATTENTION TOWN OFFICIALS:

NYSDEC announced the availability of funding for bridges and culverts to address an important concern, as well as a resource. Folks sometimes take opportunities to stress the importance of connectivity in green infrastructure to help sustain system complexity and resilience, but neglect to point out the integral importance of connectivity of a key component - **water**.

Explore <https://streamcontinuity.org/>, the website for the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), "*... a network of individuals from universities, conservation organizations, and state and federal natural resource and transportation departments focused on improving aquatic connectivity across a thirteen-state region, from Maine to West Virginia.*" for data and guidance.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is soliciting candidate projects for funding under the BRIDGE NY program. The BRIDGE NY program provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts. Particular

emphasis will be provided for projects that address poor structural conditions; mitigate weight restrictions or detours; facilitate economic development or increase competitiveness; improve resiliency and/or reduce the risk of flooding. Applications are due by April 13th, 2018. Visit the program website for information on how to apply. www.dot.ny.gov/bridgeny In developing a BridgeNY proposal, please consider utilizing the [North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity collaborative database](#) identifying severe culvert barriers in NY's Great Lakes. Details are available for severe culvert barriers in high priority watersheds that have been assessed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other partners.

FISHERIES NEWS

The NYSDEC has a YouTube channel. "[On the Front Lines](#)" is posted monthly on DEC's YouTube channel. Joelle Ernst, a 15-year employee of DEC, is an Aquatic Biologist in the Division of Fish and Wildlife. She helps to run the State's "I FISH NY" Program, designed to increase fishing participation and awareness of the outstanding fishing opportunities in New York State. The educational side of the program introduces people to the sport of angling through a variety of approaches including free fishing clinics and festivals. When Joelle is not at work, she can be found spending time with her family in the great outdoors or on the jogging trail. To learn more about DEC's "[I FISH NY](#)" Program and "[I FISH NY](#)" Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing visit DEC's website.

Fishing Lessons – contact them!

OLA member Spyder Rybaack (srybaak@yahoo.com) is again conducting free fishing classes for kids. Mike McGrath (cnyangler2@gmail.com) is assisting.

Some of you might be interested in an article published in *Outdoor Empire*: <https://outdoorempire.com/teaching-children-fish-wildlife-conservation/>. This article starts off by explaining conservation and its goals and then gives parents concrete steps on how to teach it to their kids and what are some of the benefits of doing so.

HABS – HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS – ARE TRACKED BY THE NYSDEC'S DIVISION OF WATER S *via* its page <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

Jack Henke wrote that the French explorers of *Lac Verde* inadvertently made one of the first scientific descriptions of Oneida Lake's limnology. Old timers recognize a history of algal cycles and blooms. Philip Greeson's 1971 USFS open-file report summarized the "Limnology of Oneida Lake with emphasis on Factors Contributing to Algal Blooms. He then noted that *biological changes in Oneida Lake in the past 50 years are not dramatic*. Today we cannot say the same.

This report was published shortly after the passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act that evolved into the Clean Water Act and its revisions. One focus of the CWA is to drive down nutrients (the key to blooms), especially phosphorous, entering our (lentic) stream and (lotic) lake systems. Sewage treatment systems were subsequently built, and detergent phosphorous regulated (remember to use low P – the 2nd

number on the label of - if you must apply spring lawn fertilizer.) Phosphorus can only be used on residential lawns when establishing a new lawn and soil tests show that the soil is phosphorus deficient – see link. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html>

Importantly, even today, Greeson wrote that *the four most important factors affecting the ecologic processes in Oneida Lake are: (1) high fertility of the drainage basin, (2) physical position and shallowness of the lake, (3) mixing as caused by wind, and (4) fertility of the bottom sediments.*

Algae aren't all bad. Earth gets the major portion of its oxygen from phytoplankton, and soon maybe some

fuel. <http://corporate.exxonmobil.com/en/energy/research-and-development/advanced-biofuels/advanced-biofuels-overview>

However, in the last few years, blue-green algae blooms have been getting a bad rap in Oneida Lake, the Finger Lakes, other NYS ponds, across America, and indeed on every continent but Antarctica. As humans become more social, and more communicative on this and other subjects, we offer a bit of insight. (Even old timers can learn: I am of the 'algae' age, and must update my knowledge base to now start using the term 'cyanobacteria'.)

To help us, **Dr. Greg Boyer will be the featured speaker at the Oneida Lake Association's May 2nd Annual Meeting.** The OLA Board highly recommends that our members review this 2 hour video before then. Using information from this panel discussion, you may be informed and interested in posing a follow-up question. A [recording of the live stream](#) of the March 6 Central New York HABs Summit evening session is available for viewing.

At this time, the Summit was geared toward 3 of the Finger Lakes: Skaneateles, Cayuga, and Owasco. OLA members should know that issues in 12 other lakes, while valid, are apparently superior to investigations or actions documented for centuries in Oneida. Governor Cuomo's panel is telling us that the work on these 12 lakes can be used as a template for work on other lakes. This will be of value to CNY, for Oneida Lake annually contributes around \$15M to the local economy.

Beach closures are a part. Allegedly last summer the State Health Department took a call from a woman who took an 18 month old child into Sylvan Beach when it was closed; they both broke out in rashes. Aside from reports of poisoned dogs, there is an alarming report that Sylvan Beach indicated that it is considering a plan to close the beach. (OLA's BOD will learn more and issue a clarifying statement). If town and state parks elect to close beaches to avoid administrative hassles and expenses related to potential liability from green water, so be it. A closure related to real, perceived, or potential HABs may be a short-term wise business decision, albeit one based on perception and public opinion rather than on established science or metric criteria. But the long-term economic cost would be significant. No mistake about it - there is a huge financial problem associated with HABs globally - no simple answers.

Meanwhile, know that NYSDOH takes a very conservative approach: if there is a bloom, a regulated beach is closed until the water clears and tests show that there is no toxin.

Some people will take risks anyway, outside closed areas.

SPRING PREPAREDNESS

Lakeshore owners should monitor or move their docks and hoists to ensure they are not in the path of damaging ice that may be pushed on shore.

Once ice-out is complete, and the spring boating season begins, boaters spotting floating docks or trees that constitute a navigation hazard should use the form on the OLA webpage to report dangers to NYS. <http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/navigation-hazards.htm>

Meanwhile, you might want to view this **ice-self rescue video**, and file it away for reviewing next December. This tip was **provided by one of our members** who is a retired safety professional. We hope that you have the wisdom and luck never to use this in reality.

[https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi8v5DA_ebZAhVS0VMKHRuRABoQtwIIJzAA&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PA-GzpcgIA&usg=AOvVaw3_fYPwcofw13ZINOne2ptc)

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OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Below are a couple of links that many of our readers may find enlightening and provocative. In many parts of the world, species are disappearing at alarming rates. As a former Alaskan, I have great empathy in reading these. Ironically, I can relate both to my NNY experiences.

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2018/01/22/forget-the-circle-of-life-in-this-fisheries-decision-we-are-playing-for-keeps/>

<https://www.adn.com/outdoors-adventure/2018/01/16/driving-600-miles-to-hunt-rabbits-didnt-seem-like-a-harebrained-idea/>

The impacts of climate change aren't a far-off possibility for the Pacific shellfish industry. Acidifying seawater is already causing problems for oyster farms along the West Coast and it's only expected to get worse...

[https://www.npr.org/2018/01/30/580999790/can-seaweed-save-shellfish-from-climate-change?](https://www.npr.org/2018/01/30/580999790/can-seaweed-save-shellfish-from-climate-change?sc=17&f=1001&utm_source=iosnewsapp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=app)

[sc=17&f=1001&utm_source=iosnewsapp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=app](https://www.npr.org/2018/01/30/580999790/can-seaweed-save-shellfish-from-climate-change?sc=17&f=1001&utm_source=iosnewsapp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=app)

University of California – Irvine scientists expect the world's fisheries to be, on average, 20 percent less productive in the year 2300, with those in the North Atlantic down nearly 60 percent and those in much of the western Pacific experiencing declines of more than 50 percent. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/03/180308143129.htm> Ice is calving at an alarming rate in the high latitudes. The elimination of sea ice around Antarctica will cause increased phytoplankton growth, starving other ocean regions of the nutrients needed to feed the lowest level of aquatic food webs.

And then there is the looming crisis we can attribute, in part, to the Dustin Hoffman movie *The Graduate* – “*plastics my boy, plastics*”. OLA's Board a few years ago discussed microbeads, http://auburnpub.com/blogs/eye_on_ny/another-new-york-county-passes-microbead-ban/article_24d255b4-87db-11e5-bfe9-8b243f452c33.html electing to allow others to lead the calls already advocating elimination from NYS waters. There is an initiative in Madison and other counties to ban plastic bags. Now BBC

America <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-43312464> broadcast a disturbing clip that you are urged to look up. What can you do, as an individual and family, to curtail your purchase of non-recyclable plastic products?

Is the King dead? Elvis yes. The salmon maybe sooner than later. In one more expression of oceanic health, the biggest fish are getting scarce. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180227142106.htm>

Fishing activity now covers at least 55 percent of the world's oceans – four times the land area covered by agriculture. 70,000 vessels of the global fishing fleet traveled 460 million kilometers in 2016, equivalent to traveling to the moon and back 600 times. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180222162124.htm>

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)**

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"