



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

OLA ANNUAL MEETING!!! MAY 2nd
GILLETTE ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SOUTH BAY
ROAD Between Cicero and North Syracuse. DOORS
OPEN AT 6, MEETING STARTS AT 7.
GREAT SPEAKERS!!
DOORPRIZES!

Be sure to ask your youngsters to attend the OLA Annual Meeting. Look for the Agenda on the OLA website splash page. Come and renew your membership (\$8), and bring a friend.

Before you cast a line, go fishing for your HIN!

A few years ago I bought an old rowboat bearing an "A" series NYS registration number, but no hull identification plate. Armed with a photo and bill of sale, I asked DMV about registering it. I was informed that its computer system had no ability to pull up such an old registration, and that I needed a police report/letter verifying that the HID was absent, and then I needed another entire set of paperwork!

John Harmon sends this along:

As you well know, the VIN number on your car is required for nearly any transaction--insurance, registration, purchase or sale, etc. Your boat, too, has a unique federally assigned number, known as the HIN—the Hull Identification Number. This federal requirement has been in place since 1972.

*Keep in mind that this number, which is stamped into the hull of your boat, is **not** the same as your NYS registration number. As you prepare your boat for its first spring launching, now is a good time to try to track down your number and figure out what it means. It should appear in an easily accessible place on your hull.*

Over the years, the format for the HIN has changed. Since August 1, 1984, however, the numbering system has remained stable. Since most boats fall into that category, let's take a look at what this string of numbers and letters means. Here's what a typical HIN might look like: ITC65259D909

*The first three letters represent the manufacturer's code, as assigned by the US Coast Guard. In this case ITC stands for Crownline. To look up the code for your boat, go to <http://uscgboating.org/content/manufacturers-identification.php>
The next four to eight digits represent the hull serial number assigned by the manufacturer.*

Here's where it gets tricky. The next letter and number signify the month and year of certification. This date represents the time when construction first began on your boat. The HIN uses the following system: A represents January; B is February; C is March, and so on. The number following represents the year. In this case, the D9 stands for April 2009. Finally, the last two digits indicate the model year of the boat, also 2009.

And here's a fun fact, since 1984, boat manufacturers have been required to place a duplicate HIN hidden somewhere in your boat, sometimes in a hard to reach place or even under a fitting of some nautical hardware. The idea here, of course, is to deter fraud. If someone scrapes out the easy to find HIN, there is still an identifier somewhere on the boat.

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

Call for volunteers from your organization and the Oneida Lake Community!!

Two dates are scheduled to pull invasive water chestnut weeds. While OLA is now aware of more infestations, Directors Cerro-Reehil and Ford have stepped up to rework the Big Bay and Lewis Point areas. **A dozen helpers are needed** for each site/date.

If you can assist on **Friday June 29th** (or 30th as rainday) in the Poddygut-Big Bay Creek area, please contact pcr@nywea.org. If you can help at Lewis Point on **Saturday July 14th** email Cford113@yahoo.com. Kayaks, canoes, and/or small boats will be helpful to assist waders in the respective harvests. Past participants have enjoyed a day playing in the water, and meeting fellow conservationists. Please reach out to a partner, and help us on one or both dates. OLA is engaging with other partner organizations to address other infestations, but no dates have been set for those pulls in and around Marion Manor, Long Point, and Metzger Pond.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP OLA

thanks Jim Novak, George Reck, Tom Guifre, and Steve Drummond and George Reck Sr. (not pictured). for lending a hand on the Spring I-81 duty at Bartel Road. We hope (1) that folks stop littering, and (2) more members lend a hand for the autumn cleanup detail on our piece of adopted NYSDOT highway.



FISHERIES NEWS

Bill Evans and the NYSDEC hatchery crew set nets April 9 and completed their work the following week. They put over 300,000,000 eggs into the glass jars. Come to the May 2nd Members Meeting to hear Bill speak to the 2018 effort and challenges.



With **walleye season opening next weekend, midnight of May 5**, we hope that you spend this weekend getting your gear ready. Patch the leaky waders, reline your poles, grease the trailer wheel bearings, have the updated inspection and registrations, charge the batteries and check the anodes, check the fuel line, fire extinguish, lines, knots & shackles, and your onboard tool box, PFDs, electronics, buy or pick worms, call your buddies, and put the kids to bed early.

If you are fishing near a creek mouth or upstream, please **be mindful not to harass spawning sturgeon**. The females take some 20 years to reach maturity, and many stocked in the 1995-2000 period may be making their first run. Sturgeon in Oneida Lake are a great success story; please do not mar this record. If you hook one, quickly release it (cut the line?) without lifting the fish from the water.

The American Wildlife Conservation Foundation is planning to offer a **free program** starting at 6:30 p.m. on May 24th at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery (near the Altmar/Watertown area). The topic for the evening is "**Lake Ontario**" with three guest speakers. Dr. Johathan Cohen (SUNY ESF) will be speaking on the Piping Plover and the nesting situation with east shore flooding. Irene Mazzocchi (NYSDEC) will be speaking on Loons and how various invasive species are having a negative effect on their population, and Emily Zollweg-Horan (NYSDEC Cortland) will be speaking on the Dinosaur of Lake Ontario - the sturgeon family.

The auditorium at the Hatchery has limited space, so just like the process used for the Invasive Plants program last fall at Baltimore Woods Nature Center, registration is required (maximum of 75 participants), and the first 75 participants who contact AWRP VP Dan Leete by phone (315) 263-1567 or via e-mail (dcleete@aol.com), will have a seat reserved.

Changing ocean circulation patterns and make ocean food chains less productive. The oceanic biological pump continually removes nutrients from surface waters and transfers them to the deeper waters. On a local scale, such seasonal circulation likely is active in Oneida Lake.

<http://www.newsweek.com/climate-change-fish-ocean-food-opinion-893611>

Recently having the weather to troll out of Oswego for spring browns, only some

floating trash was netted. Walking the Oneida Lake shoreline later that day, a bucket of other debris was filled. **PLEASE DON'T LITTER!!!** And think about your lifestyle; can you reduce or influence the usage of single-use plastic utensils and packaging?
<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-43845632/the-plastic-choking-indonesian-rivers>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/bbc-single-use-plastics-ban-2020-target-cups-pollution-cutlery-a8208771.html>

Scientists have established that the bigger fish in a population are vital to sustaining the population by being more gravid than smaller, albeit mature, fish. Also established is that fact that the bigger fish generally are higher in chemicals like mercury purportedly posing a health risk to some humans. Many anglers elect to catch and release all fish, some will keep for the pan only smallmouth bass under 15" and walleye under 18". Others will not buy swordfish and shark.

While not endorsing petitions, readers might want to look at this article
https://www.change.org/p/the-florida-fish-and-wildlife-conservation-commission-fwc-protect-the-critically-endangered-goliath-grouper?recruiter=20611070&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=autopublish and start to follow a bit less Facebook and more <https://www.sciencedaily.com/> and making your own more informed choices.

Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) recommends opposition to a White House proposal to enable sale of E15 gas all year. Passed in 2005, the Renewable Fuel Standard's (RFS) mandate is to increase the volume of ethanol in the nation's fuel supply. BoatUS is asking boaters to urge for RFS reform. RFS requires the blending of biofuels, such as corn-ethanol, into the nation's gasoline supply. To keep up with this mandate, in 2010 the EPA permitted E15 (fuel containing up to 15 percent ethanol) into the marketplace, but only for some vehicle engines.

E15 is prohibited by federal law for use in recreational boat engines, voids many marine engine warranties, and is currently banned for sale by the Environmental Protection Agency during summer months over concerns that it contributes to smog on hot days. Under the President's April 12 proposal, however, a waiver to the Clean Air Act would permit the sale of E15 in the summertime at the same roadside gas stations where most recreational boaters refuel their trailered vessels.

**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.



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)***