



Oneida Lake Association  
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Greetings!

## WHAT'S UP?

### ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

**Rumors of a massive walleye kill**, like that of Mark Twain's first death notice, **were premature and greatly in error**. Bill Evans explained that the weekend weather and 50 mph winds did two things. It made the lake too rough to safely put workers on the water, and it pulled some net anchors, in turn causing 2 nets to roll up fish. Only 10 nets were used this year, where 12 have been used since 2004, and more (324 million) than the quota of eggs were obtained by handling only 16,447 walleye over the course of 9 days. The few fish lost, represent a tenth of one percent of the adult population.

Bill reported on a number of other actions at the hatchery. **See his and the presentations of the other speakers on the OLA's website.**

Randy Jackson reported that the **state of the fishery** is not greatly changed. Anglers can expect to work on adult populations as follows: 1.1 million perch, 429,000 adult walleye (driven by a good 2010 year class and determined by Cornell's 2016 mark-recapture estimate), and stable numbers of bass. The consequence of round goby is as yet unknown; there may be some die-off in winter, and of reports of young goby in sportfish are variable. Regardless, any day outside fishing is better than one inside!

David Lemon reported to the audience of 200 that **cormorant management will continue**. Locally there is still a scientific permit to determine fish distributions in the birds' diet, but the general permit to kill and harass birds is not predicated on fisheries. Protected terns are threatened at

their island nesting sites, so all "take" is predicated on benefit of these birds by elimination of the cormorant.

Greg Boyer presented an excellent **overview of the cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) status in Oneida Lake**, comparing it with the notoriety given last year to the Finger Lakes. If you missed the meeting, or want to refresh your memory for talking to your neighbors, look at his slides and learn more about "HABS", "microcystis" and "microcystins". And learn when to raise an eyebrow when you hear talk of an Oneida Lake beach closure.

The Oneida Lake Association has honored **Howard Goebel**, Deputy Director of Canal Engineering, Construction, and Maintenance, as **its 2018 Conservatisionist of the Year**. "The job of managing Oneida Lake's water levels looks virtually impossible, yet Howard and especially his staff do a great job with the tools that they have," said Warren Darby, President of OLA. "The lake levels are something that most people don't think about until they are too high or too low, but managing them is a full-time job, every day and a lot of nights." Congratulations Howard!



A couple of OLA members emailed the President about **debris and hazards in the lake**, and at the meeting another member voiced the concern. We had advised that Ken Lynch greatly assisted in 2014. We had learned that

"... no one agency has singular responsibility. If notified of location, Parks will place marker buoys on hazards. Canals may remove some obstacles in its alignment. DEC has permitting authority for 'disturbance of bed or banks' by those entities pulling logs; USACE indicated that Buffalo has no real tools beyond permitting authorizations. Loaders and trucks may be a local township function. C&D landfills are county matters once debris is removed, although NYSTA, Parks, and DEC have properties that could accommodate composting."

Your BOD reached out to the agencies, learning that they were already responding to a "tickler" discussed with NYSDEC a week before the meeting:

"So OLA again asks for the agencies to speak to coordination of a prompt mark-remove-disposal effort for the grounded trees and logs.

We further ask the legislators to discuss some funding line to have ad hoc programs available when future needs periodically arise. Therein a state agency would be designated as the default lead, but depending on' where and how', towns, counties, and the other agencies could be made whole for ensuring the safety of the boating public and the individual lakeside property owner who has a problem with large items or accumulations of deleterious flotsam."

Matt Marco's May 3<sup>rd</sup> response, copying Parks, Canals, and area legislators is as follows:

“...not only in 2014, but also in 2017, DEC and Parks assisted local government with significant tree removal from the area where Oneida Creek enters the lake. DEC is aware that this winter, as a result of a combination of ice jams followed by rapid melt and flooding, significant debris was released from some lake tributaries. In mid-April, I inspected the site with the Town of Lenox and Verona Supervisors. They are leading an effort to address some of the debris, and DEC will assist them with removal of the few items that are known navigation hazards. We have been waiting for weather conditions to be suitable and safe to begin our joint effort.”

Your BOD greatly appreciates the diligence of the agencies in working for members, and the members for alerting folks to the hazards.

Separately, an OLA member reported that the angler access area east of Oneida Shores was mucked up and full of debris. Upon learning of this from an OLA communication, a prompt response to investigate and act appropriately was received from NYSDEC, Onondaga County, and the Town of Cicero.

These indications of cooperation demonstrate that there is strength in our membership numbers. If each member brought in a friend, we double numbers and relevancy in government relations.

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

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### **WATER CHESTNUT PULLS --- PLEASE VOLUNTEER?!**

In the event that you can assist, Directors Carl Ford and Patricia Cerro-Reehil will coordinate as follows:

Patricia [pcr@nywea.org](mailto:pcr@nywea.org) will coordinate volunteers in the Big Bay East area. Her group will meet again at the NYSDEC Shaw Road access site around 8:30 June 29<sup>th</sup>. A couple of small (shallow water) motor boats would be of assistance to the long-distance kayakers/canoes, especially if there is some wind.

Carl [Cford113@yahoo.com](mailto:Cford113@yahoo.com) will address the infestation east of Lewis Point around 8:30 on July 14<sup>th</sup> (rain day July 15). He is contacting the land owner regarding access and weed disposal, as in the past. Canoes, tubs, etc. are needed.

The pulls typically are complete in 3-4 hours. Help this year from our membership will be greatly appreciated! Contact either Carl or Patricia if you can assist.

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### **From NYSDEC, a reminder that summer is still trying to emerge.**

Rivers and streams are flowing high and fast. Boaters and paddlers should use caution and beware of obstacles and debris on or just below the surface. See the [USGS Current Water Data for New York](#) for stream flow of selected waters.

Water Temperatures: Water temperatures are still in the very cold range. Paddlers and boaters should wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD, aka Life Jacket)! People immersed in cold waters can lose the ability to think clearly and move quickly after only a short time in the water. Anglers fishing from shore or wading should also wear a personal flotation device.

Cornell reported May 2 that the Oneida Lake water temperature was the lowest that the Station had ever recorded at this time of year. Onondaga

911 has had at least 3 boater rescue calls so far this season, including one fatality. Please know your boat, and operate safely for the weather conditions.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recently announced its 2017 Recreational Boating Report. The state reported 22 fatalities in 2017 – the same as 2016 – which had placed the Empire State 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation for boating fatalities. In 2017, unregistered craft (kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards, peddle boats and non-motorized sailboats) represented 14 of the 22 fatalities (63.6 percent), an increase of 8 fatalities over 2016. Most of the victims capsized or fell overboard and were not wearing life jackets that may have allowed them to survive.

The report notes that New York's overall boating-fatality rate has dropped significantly since the 1970s. The 22 boating fatalities in 2017 were just 16.7 percent of what they were in 1973, New York's worst year on record with 132 boating fatalities. "One life is too many," added Edmonston. "But we know what works, including education." More than 22,000 New York residents took a boating safety class in 2017, the majority opting for an [online boating safety course](#). This compares to just 8,076 who took a class in 2000.

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Following the show of hands at the Annual Meeting, the OLA's BOD decided to proceed with plans to host a workshop to discuss erosion of the banks and landscape along the southern tributaries, and the effects and implications of subsequent sediment deposition in the lake. More to come on this workshop. Meanwhile, we are starting to compile photography *via* drone showing sediment plumes, and will be monitoring the progress of Madison County's "9-Element Plan" to place bounds on related knowledge of the problem. As this work progresses, ENews will provide updates.

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The Cove Road Boat Launch plan has been 30 years in the making. As reported last year, this project is DEC Region 6's top priority, and should be in the final design stage this year. We hope a line item enables funding of construction next season. OLA will learn more at the end of summer, and will update readers.

Readers interested in the restoration of the Cleveland Pier should know that this project is also advancing. Final plans should also come together at year's end. Anticipate a guest column on this project's plans and schedule.

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**Talewaters:** Rumor has it that the OLA President has boated 30 fish so far....29 of them pickerel!!!

Another rumor is that Bartel Bait and Tackle's Rob Goffredo is running a pickerel derby Memorial Weekend.

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The **American Wildlife Conservation Foundation** is co-sponsoring a free public education program on "Lake Ontario" on May 24th, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery, Altmar, NY. Presentations will include:

- on the Piping Plover (a threatened and endangered bird), conducted by Dr. Jonathan Cohen from Syracuse University College of Environmental Science and Forestry,
- on Loons and how various invasive species are having a negative effect on their population, conducted by Irene Mazzocchi from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Watertown Office, and
- a third presentation on the Dinosaur of Lake Ontario - the Sturgeon family, conducted by Irene Zollweg-Horan, from the NYS Department of Environmental

Conservation, Cortland Office.

There will be ample time for questions and dialogue after the three presentations.

This program is free, but is limited to 75 participants. If you wish to attend, please claim a seat by contacting Daniel Leete, either by e-mail ([dcleete@aol.com](mailto:dcleete@aol.com)), or by phone (315-263-1567). The Salmon River Fish Hatchery is easy to reach, located on Count Route 22, one mile northeast of the village of Altmar, off Interstate 81, in Oswego County.

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## MAJOR BILLS PENDING IN THE 2018 NYS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

If you are interested in reading some of the bills pending, a good starting point is this link to the NYS Conservation Council (OLA is a member):

<http://nyscc.com/legislativeinformation/memoandstatements.html>

The Council's website has been updated with a list of major bills we are tracking this session and our memorandums on all pending legislation. Go the Council's website at [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com). From the menu on the left side of the screen, select "Legislative Information."

If you know the number of a bill and want to see the bill text and sponsor statement, select "Bill Search." This will give links to the legislature's bill files. The "Bills of Interest" item will give the "Legislative Report - Major Bills 2018" option. Select it to display the full report, which is updated regularly to reflect legislative activity.

The "Memo and Statements" selection will give you access to the Council position memorandums. If the Major Bills report shows an ACTION of "2017 MEMO" or "2018 MEMO," there is a full memorandum. If it shows "2017 STMT" or "2018 STMT," look for the "BRIEF STATEMENTS" entry within the list of memorandums.

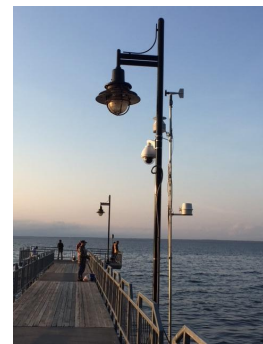
Let your legislators know how you feel about the bills of importance to you.

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## TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S CHAPMAN PARK WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM IS ADVANCING!!

Kudos to the Town for acting on an OLA initiative. The weather station has been installed and we soon anticipate connections to the Town's website

<http://townofsullivan.org/content/Weather>. Once all is operational, OLA will provide another webcam link on our splash page <http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/>.



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**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)**

ENews is edited by OLA VP Scott Shupe

**I wonder what fish hear when using quagga shells? The roar that humans hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.**