



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

BOATER SAFETY COURSES



As we enter the prime boating season of June, July, and August, we notice that the waters of Oneida Lake entice more and more skiers, cruisers, sailors, jet skiers, anglers, and—let's not forget—swimmers. Fortunately most of us on the lake know how to share this wonderful resource, enjoying our activities, while keeping those around us safe.

As we invite novices and youngsters into the boating scene, it is important to note that **anyone born after May 1st, 1996 is required to successfully complete a Boater Safety course in order to operate a motorized vessel. And all boaters, regardless of age, must pass an approved course in order to operate a PWC (jet ski).**

Here are a few courses available nearby during the next two months:

Saturday, June 23, 2018
VanBuren Town Hall
7575 VanBuren Rd., Baldwinsville
John Steinbarg (315)638-4727

This class is for adults and children. The instructor charges a fee for this course. If you are 18 or older in addition to the class fee you will be required to pay NYS Parks a \$10.00 fee for your boating safety certificate.

Saturday, June 30, 2018

Lysander Town Hall

8220 Loop Rd., Baldwinsville

Jason Wright (315)635-5999

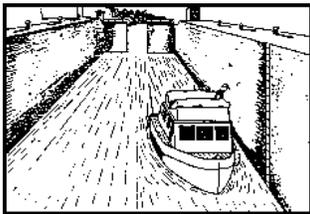
This class is for adults and children The instructor charges a fee for this course. If you are 18 or older in addition to the class fee you will be required to pay NYS Parks a \$10.00 fee for your boating safety certificate.

Saturday, July 7, 2018

Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 VanBuren Rd., Baldwinsville (Onondaga)

John Steinbarga (315)638-4727

This class is for adults and children. The instructor charges a fee for this course. If you are 18 or older in addition to the class fee you will be required to pay NYS Parks a \$10.00 fee for your boating safety certificate.



LOCK IN THE ERIE CANAL

One of the marvels of New York State, the Erie Canal, continues to celebrate its 200th year anniversary this summer by waiving the lock fee for recreational vessels. If you ever wanted to “lock

though,” this is the summer to do it. It’s both fun and educational, so bring the kids!

Your first time in the lock, however, might be somewhat intimidating. There is moving water (both horizontally and vertically!), the creaking of the gates, shouts from the Lock Master, and possibly a number of boats with the same float plan that you have. Although the lock chamber looks huge as you approach it, once the gates open and you drift inside with two or three other boats, it seems to shrink before your eyes!

The Canal Corporation has provided some helpful tips for going through the locks.

On approaching the lock, hail the Lock Operator on Marine Channel 13, call using a mobile phone, or sound three blasts on your horn to signal that you are approaching and request service. A red light indicates the lock is not ready. Stop at a safe distance and stand-by for a green light. Before entering the lock, check that fenders are properly positioned.

Entering the Lock

A green light means come ahead. Enter the lock slowly and stay in line. Once in the lock chamber, station your vessel alongside the lock wall as directed by the Lock Operator. During the lockage, keep your bow and stern close to the wall by looping a line to a holding apparatus (pipes or cables) in the locks (if so equipped), or by holding the lines provided (Bring gloves!) **DO NOT TIE LINES.** Serious injury can result from using hands and feet to fend a moving boat off a wall. Use a boat hook, paddle or an oar. Do not wrap lines around your hands or feet as lines may tighten and cause injury.

Exiting the Lock

Take in lines when lock gates are fully open and shove off away from the wall. Proceed slowly out of the lock chamber in order. Observe “lock limit” speed before increasing cruising speed.

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

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 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 29th. A couple of small (shallow water) motor boats would be of assistance to the long-distance kayakers/canoes, especially if there is some wind.

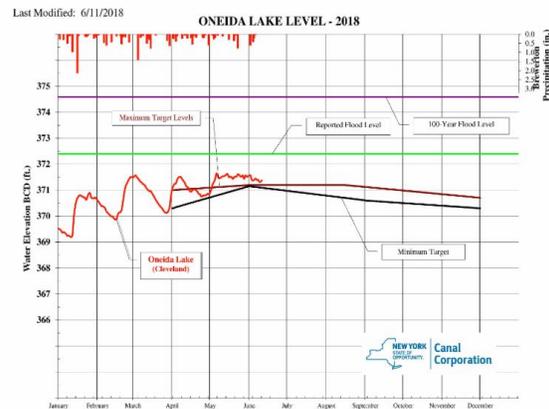
Carl Cford113@yahoo.com will address the infestation east of Lewis Point around 8:30 on July 14th (rain day July 15). He is contacting the land owner regarding access and weed disposal, as in the past. Canoes, tubs, etc. are needed.

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.

ONEIDA LAKE WATER LEVELS

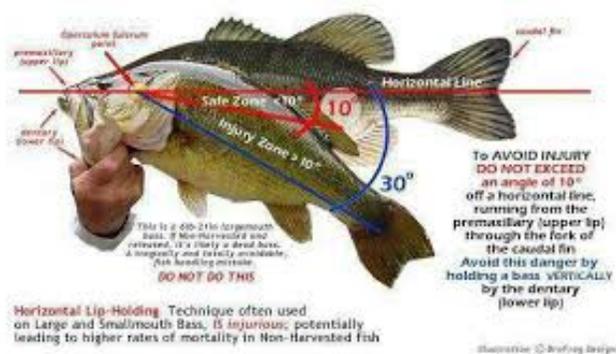
Did you know that the Canal Corporation is also responsible for maintaining the water level on Oneida Lake? They take their job very seriously, monitoring and adjusting the lake level on a constant basis. Take a look at the “Rule Curve” used by Canal Corp.

You can see that for the month of June, the minimum and the maximum converge at the ideal level of just over 371 feet above sea level. **You can find the actual daily lake levels at a tab on the OLA website Home page.**



BASS OPENER

Now that Bass season is upon us, many anglers will add this species to their target



list. And many of those anglers will enjoy the fight of a feisty small-mouth, with the intention of releasing the fish —unharmd—back into the waters. If your bass is not headed for the frying pan, take care in how you hold it for that quick photo. See the guide above.

And speaking of Bass, be sure to check out the website devoted to the Bass anglers of New York State:

nybass.com

You'll find fishing tips, tackle advice, a forum, and, of course, plenty of items for sale. **There is a link for this site on the Oneida Lake Association website, under the Resources tab.**

STURGEON

As part of a research project developed by Syracuse's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a research team used gill nets to capture, measure, and tag the sturgeon who roam the bottom of Onondaga Lake. One net yielded six sturgeon, including one weighing in at 65 pounds and measuring five feet, two inches long! Noah Ringler, one of the researchers, explained that these sturgeon made their way into the lake through the rivers that connect Onondaga and Oneida Lakes. Ringler credits the **DEC Hatchery in Constantia** with spawning these remarkable fish in the early 1990s.



WHAT IS THAT STRING OF WHITE BUOYS STRETCHING ACROSS THE OPENING OF BIG BAY??

Sure, you've fished those waters countless time, using the pin buoys to guide you around the Poddygut Shoals. But this spring you noticed a line of sparkling white buoys extending in an unusually straight line across the mouth of Big Bay. Did a new shoal crop up? Do I need to raise my outdrive? NO!

This string of buoys marks a newly laid sewer line from the north shore properties, cutting across a segment of the lake, on its way to the pumping station. So there is no need for alarm, no need to raise your outdrive, and

probably no reason to expect fish to congregate. It's just a warning to avoid dropping an anchor!

Or . . . you could water-ski around them!

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AT ITS FINEST

“Doing things right.” That’s how dairy farmer Mike McMahon describes his efforts to run a profitable farm while trying to protect the watersheds of Central New York. His 2,300 acre farm boasts many streams and brooks, including Grout Brook, which is a tributary into Skaneateles Lake, which, in turn, supplies drinking water for the city of Syracuse.

McMahon planted thousands of willow trees along the banks of Grout Brook. These trees help stabilize the banks, reducing the amount of erosion and fertilizer flowing downstream into Skaneateles Lake. For his extraordinary stewardship of the Central New York’s waters, McMahon won a national prize for “Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability.”

Although his efforts largely benefit the Skaneateles watershed, he serves as model for farmers in the Oneida Lake watershed as well. Well done, Mike McMahon!

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.