



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

The **Cove Road Boat Launch** plan has been 30 years in the making. DEC Region 6 reported that all funding is now in place and that the launch should be operational in a couple of years.

The fifth annual **Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW)** campaign will be held July 8-14, 2018. This year, the ISAW theme is:

"What YOU can do to stop the spread!"

The week-long campaign features several statewide events focused on invasive species. NYSDEC advises:

Can't get out and help during invasive species awareness week? Here are a few other ways you can [help stop the spread of destructive invasive species](#):

- *Be sure to clean all plant material and mud from your boat and gear before leaving the boat launch. Dispose of materials in an aquatic invasive species disposal station if one is available.*
- *Select only native plants for use in your yards and gardens.*
- *Don't move firewood, and be aware of [firewood regulations](#) in your area. Moving firewood can contribute to the spread of forest pests.*
- *Clean boot treads and pant legs to remove plants and seed material after a hike to avoid spreading these to other sites.*

Unfortunately, once most invasive species are detected, slowing the spread is difficult, even with great effort and cost. Eradication is unlikely. Nevertheless, OLA urges its members and friends to avail themselves of the opportunity to learn about (identify) some of the problem species, and to report them. If you spot NAIS contact Emma Antolos at emma.antolos@dec.ny.gov and register to participate in the Water Chasers Challenge <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/82062.html> or log on to <https://www.imapinvasives.org/>

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE BOARD:



At the end of June the water had bands of some sort of white "casings" by the thousands coming ashore. What are these?

These are mayfly bodies! It was nice to have coffee Monday morning, June 25, on the deck with two eel flies on my table. Absent for nearly 40 years, our *Hexagenia limbata* mayflies are fighting to return to the Oneida Lake ecosystem. If juvenile gobies (hatching 4+ times a year) do not decimate the insect instar emerging from the lake bottom mud, perhaps the eel fly will return in great numbers. Up to about 1965 the insect was so numerous as to turn the lee side of white camps brown! Vital to bats, seagulls, martins, terns, swallows and juvenile and adult fish during a two-week period, eel flies fed the multitudes! This protein buffer enabled walleye and perch fry, for instance, to escape predation until the fry grew large enough to avoid predators while finding shelter in the weeds. The left photo shows floating skins shed by emerging eel flies as they escape the water surface as adults. The nymph emerges from the water as a dull-colored sub-imago (or dun) that seeks shelter in lake-side vegetation and trees. After a period of a couple of hours or more, the sub-imago once again sheds its skin to transform into the brightly colored imago (or spinner). The spinners swarm and male and female copulate. The eggs get deposited on the water surface and then fall to the bottom. Spent, the adults die like Pacific salmon. These critters* are welcome visitors each year about this time! (* *I was once told, as an undergraduate, that one must have a Master's Degree to use this technical term in general literature.*) Those of you on the lake July 1 would have seen spinner bodies, rather than shed juvenile skins, all through an algae bloom that came ashore in the afternoon. Good with the bad.

Occasionally as I boat along the shore east of the South Shore Boat launch, if the wind is from offshore after a rain, I smell septic in front of some of the camps. Is there no sewer in this section of the lake?

Not all of the Madison County, Town of Sullivan waterfront is within a sewer district. As with other parts of the lake shore, camps from the early and mid-twentieth century – that had outhouses or septic tanks - have been sold and converted to homes. Not all old septic systems have been replaced, grandfathered as not comparable to current code. Because of increased development and impervious surfaces south of the lake shore, and because the drainage (including many springs) is toward the camps and houses, after heavy rains the wet ground may not allow the leach fields to function at 100%. These properties (a mix of seasonal camps and year-round residences) are now among the highest appraised and taxed parcels in the Town, and many are owned by older folks on fixed incomes. Because of the substantial tax that would be levied to engineer and build sewers along the entire lake shore, residents have repeatedly (since the 1970s) voted NOT to create sewer districts. The most recent ballot was mixed, but the federal and state governments must offer substantial subsidization or tax credits to swing the opinions. Despite the occasional odor locally, most of the rest of the lake has sewer, and the nutrients coming from these few residences is trivial by comparison to the nutrient levels introduced by the Oneida and Chittenango Creek drainages (the latter includes much of the landscape between Canastota and Meadowbrook in Syracuse).

Know that the OLA has a position paper on lake nutrient levels. Please check the website.

We live in Bridgeport next to Fisher Bay Marina and have the worst Muck on our Shoreline that we have ever seen in the 36 years we have lived here. Any ideas of how to get rid of this? Appreciate any help you can give us.

The photos you sent appear to have an unpleasant coating of vegetation that washed ashore and accumulated. It appears to be *Cladophora*, a genus of reticulated filamentous green algae. The genus *Cladophora* contains many species that are very hard to tell apart and classify, mainly because of the great variation in their appearances, which is affected by habitat, age and environmental conditions. It grows robustly in the clear springtime and early summer waters. Then it gets to a mature stage that breaks loose from the rocks, floating with the waves. As you see from the accumulation, its demise can be substantial. In other waters this mass can clog industrial intakes.

Endure the wet smell and let it rot, or rake and compost it into your gardens.



SAFETY NOTE

If you have parsnips in your garden this year, do not let them start to regrow in the spring. Their seed moves, as does wild parsnip, and can endanger those who make contact with the plant. If you golf, jog or bike highways, or need to change a tire on many state roads, learn to identify wild parsnip (bright green flat flower

head in early July, on a stem taller than most grasses). It is all along parts of Rt. 31 toward Verona, South Bay Road, I-90, many other highway guard rails, rural utility poles, and the rough out-of-bounds areas of some golf courses (in addition to the prolific poison ivy)! Its sap can cause an itchy, painful, and scarring blistering rash. It is related to the giant hogweed, a real nasty noxious, alien, invasive plant species!

Parsnip rash, also called phytophotodermatitis (PPD), is a skin condition caused by contact with some plants, including parsnip and wild parsnip (or giant hogweed), from which the condition gets its common name. Google pictures so you can identify these invasive weeds when you golf, ATV, or change a tire; roadsides and unmaintained rough are ideal locations for their prolific growth.

As with any noxious or alien invasive species (NAIS) prevention is paramount; mitigation and maintenance are more costly and prolonged. Curtailing NAIS at the borders, or within confined local populations, is the key to spread. Once a zebra

mussel, round goby, water chestnut, oak wilt, spiny water flea, mute swan, or giant hogweed is present, the NAIS characteristic of prolific propagation of the organism is generally impossible to stop, and new areas will become infested. Help stop the spread by reading up on NAIS

Parsnips contain compounds which may cause skin irritation in some people, and make the skin very sensitive to sunlight. This can lead to severe burning.

Symptoms

- Itchy rash resembling a burn, somewhat like scabies
- Skin blistering characteristic of allergic eczema
- Blisters that weep, ooze, or become crusty, individual or in streaks
- Skin discoloring (dark red, purple or brown)

Identification

According to the DEC website:

Wild parsnip can grow up to 5' tall and has hollow, grooved stems that are hairless. Leaves resemble large celery leaves. They are yellow-green, coarsely toothed and compound, with 3-5 leaflets. Small, yellow flowers are clustered together in a flat-topped array approximately 3-8" across. Flowering usually occurs during the second year of growth, starting in May or June and lasting for 1-2 months. Seeds are flat, brown, and slightly winged to facilitate wind dispersal in the fall.

If you come into contact with plants likely to cause parsnip rash, wash the area and cover the skin immediately to prevent contact with sunlight. If you need to pull up parsnip, or other plants that may cause problems, wear gloves and a long sleeved shirt.

When you landscape, consult NYSDEC's website and learn what plants NOT to plant!!!!

The intelligent tinker:

It All Started With a Few Trout. Now Yellowstone's Iconic Birds Face "Collapse." reported the *National Geographic*. An invasive fish set off a biological domino effect that has already affected bears and elk. Now it threatens trumpeter swans and other birds. [Read the full story](#)

Years ago I recall my family cooling off in a heatwave, sitting on rocks in an Adirondack stream pool, refreshing water flowing over our midsections. I remember the initial shock, then delight as the kids reacted to the sensation of dace nibbling on their toes! Now I read about the urbanization of this mountain adventure. **Woman lost her toenails after fish pedicure.** Trauma from the so-called "doctor fish" nibbling on her toenails likely caused them to separate, according to a new case study [Read the full story](#)

In other fisheries news, a neighbor and OLA member caught a 20 pound drum and a 25 inch walleye. He said he had a great day. What a workout he would get if he fished the Mekong River: **Critically Endangered Giant Fish on Menu at Luxury Restaurants** reports the National Geographic. Vietnamese restaurateurs are illegally sourcing rare Mekong River megafish from Cambodian fishermen. [Read the full story](#)

Chefs in Florida are featuring lion fish on the menu, and restaurants along the Mississippi are experimenting with Asian jumping carp. Wonder if and when goby pops will challenge chicken nuggets or wings as local fast food? Or maybe replacing anchovies on your pizza?!?!?

Summer is a great time to be on and in Oneida Lake!

The third annual Bridgeport Paddlefest at Stones Marina Saturday August 11 starts at 11 AM.



A Caring Day on the Water!

It was open season for smiles for three special kids who had an opportunity to fish Oneida Lake on June 15th. **Rob and Kim Goffredo**, owners of Bartell Road Bait and Tackle Store, sponsored the event, inviting youngsters with special needs to spend the day fishing with some experienced anglers. **OLA President, Warren Darby**, skippered his well-equipped Lund, with three kids, three parents, and his fishing partner, Dan Pabis. Captain Darby and his crew caught their limit of walleyes (and a 28 inch bowfin!) fishing north of the two large islands (Frenchman & Dunham) in about 20 feet of water, with planer boards and 1 1/2 ounce bottom bouncers and spinner with worm.

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

WATER CHESTNUT PULLS --- THANK YOU!

Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil reported that volunteers in the Big Bay East area removed water chestnuts from the lake on June 29th.

The volunteers had a nice, hot day to play in the water!

The Water Chestnut team from the Oswego County Soil

& Water Conservation District assisted in the event, as well as students from Hobart



William Smith College who drove their Jon boat all the way from Geneva to help! The event was a success with nearly 230 pounds of chestnuts pulled!

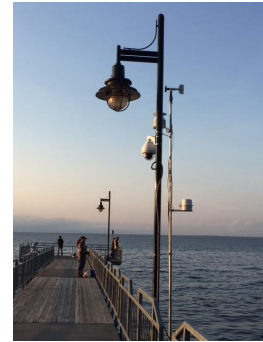
Director Carl Ford hopes to have plenty of help to limit the infestation east of Lewis Point July 14th (rain day July 15).

Talewaters: Rumor has it that the traffic circle planned for the intersection of Routes 31 and Bridgeport Road will be complete by Labor Day.

Meanwhile, be careful in this area as you adjust to new traffic generated by the casino. There have been several fender benders since it opened.

TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S CHAPMAN PARK WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM IS ONLINE

Kudos to the Town for acting on an OLA initiative. The weather station can be seen on the Town's website <http://townofsullivan.org/content/Weather>. OLA has webcam links on our splash page <http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/>.



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)***