



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

If you have an avocation and interest in serving OLA, please reach out to one of the Directors. Our contact info is at our website.

The BOD currently has one Director vacancy, and anticipates another in the next year. Directors meet once a month, and may spend 3-6 hours a month on OLA business. Each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position after serving for a few 2-year terms.

Write out your avocational resume and send it along with a brief note outlining your experience and interests to any OLA Director, or to President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org

SAVE THE DATE!

The OLA's 2019 ANNUAL MEETING will be held from 6-9 PM Wednesday May 1 at Gillette Road Middle School on South Bay Road (between Rt 31 and Driver's Village).

This year's theme is "OLA NEEDS YOU!" Watch for more communications for a different interactive meeting. We will be posting 10 questions to invite members to discuss ideas for organizational improvement.

Also, bring the kids. We will have a casting pond, and age-class prizes.

It is not too early for lake shore residents to **prepare for breakup and ice-out.**

Be prepared for high water and for ice to be driven into your yards. Are your docks, hoists, and water toys far enough from shore?

Thanks to former Director Bob Gang for this photo from a few years ago. Ice destroyed his gabion wall, and buried his Hobie Cat!



CAN OLA PARTNER TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ITS MEMBERSHIP?

National Geographic President & CEO Tracy Wolstencroft (Nov 2018, V234 N6:1720), in committing to the challenge of spreading knowledge, understanding and caring about the loss of biodiversity consequent to world population growth and its race for natural resource extractions/alterations, seeks to harness the power of partnerships. Citing conservationist Jane Goodall, *Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help.*

He seeks to inspire readers to care about our planet's future. He opines that local, regional, national, and international partnerships are needed to combat, compensate, and correct biodiversity issues. He states that human nature seems to have an ingrained desire to seek affluence. Further, this desire is manifested by a world population that has grown from 1.5 billion in 1888 to 7.6 billion today.

He cites Jared Diamond's mathematical extrapolations on the rates of resource consumption by the growing human migration and demand in seeking betterment. Diamond opines that to survive we must decouple the notion that consumption and life style are related. Interesting reading.

So, if we care about our local biodiversity issues such as Oneida Lake sedimentation or new invasive species or American eel decline, we ask **"What can the individual OLA member do?"**

Maybe we can partner with other organizations to better understand challenges facing our current and future membership.

Drop us a note if you have a particular lake concern, or suggestion.

Look for a future email to invite you to respond to an on-line survey. Results and open discussion will be a major part of the upcoming Annual Meeting.

OLA NEEDS YOU!

To this end, the OLA-BOD is asking for YOUR help.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Again this year OLA will be conducting trash pickup at the Bartel Road I-81 interchange and the Angler Walk beneath the bridge. The Spring cleanup is scheduled for April 26, 9AM. The Autumn cleanup is TBA. If you can help, drop us a

note!

Also, we will be facilitating **weed pulls** in mid-July. Invasive, alien, water chestnut is being controlled in several locations where the nuisance plant has been identified by members. If you have a kayak, canoe, small boat, or just want a day to play in the lake, we would like to have your help. Stay tuned.

And a **special thanks** to the members who attended the January Sports Show at the State Fair, and those who have already "re-upped" their **annual memberships**. Let your friends and neighbors (who do not get this email) that membership cards are coming via 'snail mail' in March. Bulletins will be emailed around the first of April. Hard copies will be posted about April 15th for those who did not elect to get them electronically, or whose email address has bounced from the Constant Contact list serve. **If you want to join now, pull down membership info from our website.**

WATERFOWL SEASONS HAVE BEEN SET

Oneida Lake is in the Northeastern Zone of the New York State duck season. The NYSDEC recently computerized the season setting process for all waterfowl hunting zones in the State. The following season was established for Oneida Lake:

- the season will start on the first Saturday of October and go for 23 days and ending on a Sunday.
- a second split will begin 5 days after the closure of the first split and go for 37 days and ending on a Sunday.
- This framework will be in place for the next 5 seasons, commencing this fall.
- The actual dates for the fall of 2019 will be October 5 through October 27 and November 2 thru December 8.
- The season for brant and migratory Canada geese has not been established yet. Severe season length and bag limit restrictions are expected to protect distinct migratory populations that have experienced declines.
- The September season for local Canada geese is expected to remain unchanged.

Landowners having property in that borders at least 50 feet of a stream, river, or lake, and provide photos and map coordinates of the planting location can get **FREE TREES**.

Applications are due by 3 p.m. April 3.
General questions may be sent to treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov.

NYSDEC-R-6 informs us that the long-awaited **Cove Road Boat Launch** work is progressing. It is anticipating that historical documentation of the old canal works is wrapping up, and that construction will start this spring-summer.

SEDIMENT ISSUE

Kathleen Bertuch reported that conference call was held in January with DEC Region 7, DEC Central Office, Department of State, and CNY Regional Planning Board to discuss the Nine Element Plan. A Nine Element Plan (NEP) is a watershed-based plan that identifies and quantifies pollutants, determines a pollutant reduction goal, and identifies best management practices needed to improve water quality. A major component of the plan is the development of a model that will predict pollutant loading in the 1,364 square-mile Oneida Lake Watershed.

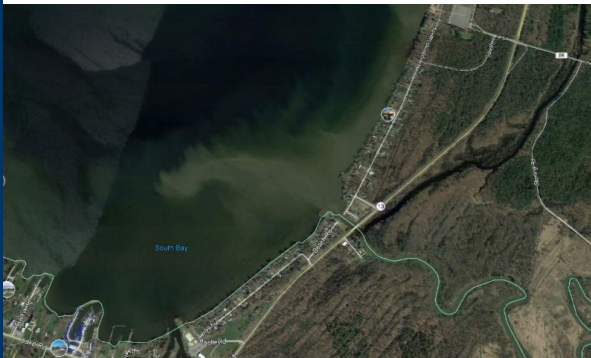
Under the sponsorship of the Madison County Planning Department, the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNYRPDB) submitted a Local Waterfront Revitalization grant application to the New York State Department of State (DOS) in 2016. The application sought funding to prepare a NEP for Oneida Lake.

Participants discussed some of the issues relative to work planning and data collection needed to support the required modeling, as well as some of the related budget concerns. Some of the good that came from this meeting was news that DEC

anticipates that it will be able to fund data collection as needed to meet state data requirements for calibrating and validating the models. This will go a long way towards addressing budget gaps that had the potential to sink completion of the project.

A second meeting was held in Syracuse on January 30 with the same partners as well as Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI), Cornell Biologic Research Field Station (CBRFS), and the Madison County Planning Department (the project sponsor) to develop a clearer understanding of what DEC can provide in terms of data collection support relative to what is needed to conduct the modeling. DEC noted that all data used to support state funded modeling projects must be repeatable, consistent and publicly defensible. Recognizing that CBRFS has amassed a significant amount of historic lake data over the past 25 years, DEC will investigate opportunities for using the existing data to the extent supported within any identified limitations. DEC further committed state staff and resources to conduct any additional data collection and analysis as needed to fill data gaps and to support robust lake and watershed modelling efforts. Following the meeting, CBRFS and UFI are working with DEC to finalize data collection needs and logistics so that monitoring efforts can begin as soon as possible.

CNYRPDB reviewed opportunities for updating specific, relevant sections of the *2003 State of the Oneida Lake and Watershed Report* and the *2004 Management Strategy for Oneida Lake* with DOS. DOS agreed that given the strength of both documents, it is not necessary to re-invent the wheel in order to meet the EPA's required 9-elements. The DOS contracting process not uncommonly induces delays in awarding grants. At last word, while we have incurred a 2-year delay, we are optimistic that DOS will work with CNYRPDB to advance a more streamlined work plan and to expedite the contract process.



2018 photo by George Stowers showing sediment plumes from Oneida Creek.

CORMORANT UPDATE

CORNELL

In ENews #31 we presented Dr. Randy Jackson's summary on the then incomplete diet study as of early September. Randy provided more results after analysing stomachs of birds that were taken off the lake by NYDEC under a special permit:

Cornell looked at 207 cormorants, from which we extracted 1,370 prey items, 1,174 of which were identifiable.

Numerically, gobies led at 48% of identifiable items, followed by gizzard shad (26%), and yellow perch (13%). Walleye were only 3% by number.

By weight, order changes yellow perch in first, followed by shad, walleye and goby. this because one big perch or walleye weighs a lot more than a bunch of gobies.

ONTARIO

Reacting too decades of environmental degradation by cormorant overpopulation, Ontario proposed that nuisance birds can be shot this year.

The province is considering controlling the double-crested cormorant by creating a hunting season. If approved, the policy would allow a hunter to kill up to 50 birds a day, with no limit on the number they could kill during a season. One newspaper speculates that, in theory, if hunters meet their daily quota every day during the proposed hunting period of March 15 to Dec. 31, they could each kill around 14,000 birds a year.

Anyone who hunts ducks and geese know that such an alarmist speculation is absolutely preposterous, and represents incendiary reporting. Full bag limits simply are not the norm. And most responsible waterfowlers will have no interest in shooting a cormorant, just as most hunters pass on coot and mergansers as unfit to eat..
[*Editor's opinion.*]

Nevertheless, if a few Ontario hunters take a few birds, APHIS and NYSDEC experience shows that the rest of the flock 'wises up' quickly, moving on. So if the Ontario proposal goes into effect, we in NY may see a more rapid migration of the northern nuisance.

OLA ACTION

President Darby, at the direction of the full Board of Directors, has requested a meeting with senior staff at NYSDEC to explore what avenues of action are open to the state regarding active management of the birds.

Vandalism & theft situation at NYS DEC Fishing Access areas

Reported incidents are on the increase . There have been a number of cars and trucks vandalized while folks are out ice fishing. Be alert in parking areas, and report details of suspicious persons/actions.

Angler stewardship is especially important on Lewis Point and other private access points. Ethical anglers are parking wisely, picking up trash, and generally being considerate of others. Adhere to bag limits; take no more fish than you need for your family. Use social media responsibly.

A member/reader suggested that ENews incorporate a segment of **FISHING TIPS.**

So here we go. Feel free to offer up some of your short hints, tips, and tricks.

Never go ice fishing without a manual compass. Orient yourself before you leave shore. If visibility is lost, and your GPS or phone battery goes dead (or you drop it in the hole!) electronics are unlikely to help you. Magnetic north is still there.

READER COMMENTS RECEIVED:

"I really liked your article in the recent Enews about the enormous amount of waste due to packaging. When I see the amount of trash that goes to the curb every Tuesday morning, I'm astonished. And that's just from me and my wife. We recently had an opportunity to visit relatives in Macedonia. It was in a modern house with five people living in it. And for about four days, they added us as guests. One of the mornings while we were there it was their trash pick-up day. And for all of those people, the entire trash

output fit into a five gallon bucket! That was thanks to careful purchasing, almost no packaging, and comprehensive composting. Interesting, isn't it?"

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

Recruit your non-member neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



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](#)

OLA is a 401(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

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)**

Edited by Scott Shupe and John Harmon.

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!