



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

SPORTS SHOW ATTURNING STONE: Starting at 2 PM Friday, April 1 for the weekend OLA Directors will be at our table selling \$5 memberships and answering questions. If you are in the area, stop in, see us, take the family to one of the events shows, and have the kids cast a line in the contest pool we cosponsor. <http://bigeastshows.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/camping-show-poster.pdf>

The next time you visit Cicero, swing by the Oneida Shores Park boat ramp. OLA has space on a County kiosk to help educate waterfront users on the lake's biology and to and keep you current on issues. Look for periodic material changes over the years. Directors Warren Darby, Gina Duggleby, and George Reck did great work in securing, designing, and installing this informational display.

We are still working on getting more webcam visibility to the lake *via* links on our website. Over the next few months we hope to be able announce access to a couple of new cameras on the south shore.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

ANNUAL MEETING: Remember that doors open at **6 PM April 27**. The 71st Annual Meeting will convene at 7PM in the auditorium of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

FANWORT NEWS: As reported last August, and the subject of one Q&A on our webpage, invasive macrophyte *Cabomba caroliniana* was discovered upstream of Oneida Lake in Kasoag Lake. The latter lake association had applied to local NYSDEC Region 7 for a herbicide permit to treat its waters and curtail the treat downstream into Fish Creek. Various delays occurred.

There is a new statewide procedure for pesticide reviews that includes a modeling review by DEC executives in Albany. This is to assure that adequate notification to downstream residents occurs and protections (such as restrictions on the use of water for irrigation) are implemented if pesticide labels include a restriction on the use

of treated water for irrigation). The previous method of review made assumptions on how pesticides would dissipate. The new procedure is more accurate and will help assure that restrictions in place on the pesticide labels are implemented. The OLA-BOD hopes that the scientific and bureaucratic review do not delay Kasoag Lake Association's pesticide application permit beyond an optimal time period.

On March 8 members of the OLA-BOD participated in a webinar/call hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to address the pending matters regarding planning for monitoring of fanwort in Fish Creek. OLA thanks TNC/SLELO-PRISM and the KLCA for their respective Herculean initiatives. TNC/SLELO-PRISM has formulated an Early Detection Team to perform the initial survey of ten highly probable areas where fanwort could be established already in Fish Creek. That survey will begin in early June. KLCA has notified downstream stakeholders of its pesticide application plans, and anticipates execution of that contract in May – contingent on NYSDEC's approval. As a contingency if the initial survey finds fanwort in Fish Creek, additional resources (volunteers) will be needed to float and walk more locations in mid-late June. OLA is asking its interested members, who would be willing to be trained and volunteer for inventory and monitoring, to contact a board member.

ALL WATER MATTERS!

featured

FISHERIES: By most accounts, although we had a short, safe-ice period, hard water anglers filleted plenty of nice panfish and pike.

Take a look on <http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/OLA-articles.htm>. We have posted a wonderful article on Oneida Lake sturgeon written at our request by Tom Brooking, "Mr. Sturgeon" of Cornell who is frequently seen across the state at fairs and shows displaying a replica of one of these magnificent fishes. Amid the uncertainty of the newly invasive round gobies, and recalling our essentially extirpated ciscoes, American eels, and Atlantic salmon, it is extraordinary to read this success story of sturgeon in Oneida Lake.

As we received permission to post Tom's article, our friend Randy Jackson at Cornell advised us that NYSDEC's The Conservationist had granted OLA permission to also post his June 2012 article on burbot. Cold water species like cisco, salmonids, and burbot appear to suffer disproportionately high sea-lamprey mortalities where the parasite is uncontrolled. While ice fishing at the end of February, I came across anglers who were 'spooked' by their catches of these spawning natives. Another misinformed angler arrogantly rejected the notion of putting burbot back in the hole, stating '*discarded fish will be recycled by gulls*'. Controls in Oneida Lake since 1985 may be helping our lake's *Lota lota* hold its own in a warming environment. We present this article to help some of you better understand the diversity and dynamics of a lake that has seen 85 fish species (73 native, 12 nonnative).

Members in CNY may be interested in a March 30 seminar at 7:30 pm when SUNY ESF's Dr. Neil Ringler discusses 30+ years of research on Onondaga Lake fishes, mussels, aquatic plants, sturgeon that migrated from Oneida Lake, bass, and mayflies. He is an engaging speaker, and has worked with dozens of students to plumb the depths of lake biology regarding the lake's recovery from pollution. You can park free on campus, and there is a nice reception following the talk. For more information visit

- www.esf.edu/efb/travislecture.
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December 2005 Ice piled 28 feet high in Cicero

WATER: March is the time we change the clocks and our attitudes in approaching water. Ice converts to liquid. Snowmobiles and ice shanties are packed away, boats come out. As the last weekend in February again demonstrated, seasonal rains lifted the lake ice free from shore, curtailing hard water anglers and travel through Rattlesnake Gulch. A week later ice crafted along parts of the south and east shores, then refroze. Here are some global and local pieces of trivia for you to relate to as you brush your teeth and think about your water use. Be sure to turn off the tap when you brush!

Large parts of the world are experiencing 'desertification' as they run out of fresh water. We in CNY are 'spoiled'. Water shortages elsewhere are driven by El Niño, global warming, and human population growth. In California, Florida, and Long Island salt water intrusion is a concern. About 96.5% of the earth's water is labeled brackish with 1% defined as saline; 2.5% is fresh. Of that, 1.2% (0.03% of all water) is fresh surface water. Of the surface fresh water, 30% is groundwater and 69% is in glaciers and icecaps (*Sherree DeCovny, 2/10/16, CFA Institute*). The more surface water is used, the more contaminated it becomes. Depending on where you live, your water comes from a well or a lake. Water from wells surrounding Oneida Lake can have sulfur, salt, and other minerals, including natural gas. The water that gets "used" and going down a drain either goes into your septic tank or gets treated at a wastewater treatment plant. Some industrial, commercial, and agricultural users cause contamination that is not treated. Indeed, Governor Cuomo has proposed new regulations to prevent contamination from solid waste facilities, inviting comments through July 15, 2016.

As the greater Syracuse area expanded its footprint three-fold over the last 50 years (ironically with little commensurate population growth), the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) expanded its system into rural areas. Municipal sewer systems also expanded as farms were subdivided and camps were converted to year-round. Sewers do not yet encompass the entire shoreline.

Data indicates that Oneida Lake's nutrient levels have decreased following America's awareness that its water resources were in peril. After the Cuyahoga River caught fire again in 1969, America's fledgling environmental movement ignited Congress to pass the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. Morphing into the Clean Water Act, metropolitan sewage treatment districts were funded to deal with contaminated waters and related impacts to the aquatic resources on which we depend. Today, about 60% of China's groundwater is unfit for human use. In India about 80% of its sewage flows into rivers absent treatment. Parts of America still struggle with clean water. Think Flint, Ithaca, and hundreds of other communities from Alaska to Mexico dealing with lead, arsenic, mercury, or other contaminant issues, and the state of disrepair of our infrastructure systems.

Yes, we in CNY are fortunate, but we cannot be complacent. Our regional, state, and

national economic health – much less the underlying human – relies on water. Oneida Lake is not a drinking water source, but it is the largest lake wholly within NYS; it is the largest freshwater lake within any state border in the entire United States!

Some trivia: water is resident in the lake for about 235 days; the shoreline is about 55 miles (89 km); portions of six counties and sixty-nine communities are in the watershed of 1,364 square miles. Our drainage basin is coded by the USGS as #04140202, and Oneida Lake is the 26th 'Pond' on the 11th tributary to Lake Ontario {66} Ont-66-P26 in the Great Lakes drainage basin. That drainage and that of the Hudson are connected by a canal system through our lake.

The Barge Canal is designed for navigation, not flood control (Caughdenoy gates are left open once the navigation season ends). Hydroelectric facilities at some locks merely use the water that NYSCC must pass, in part to match the Oneida Lake Rule Curve seasonal target levels (<http://www.canals.ny.gov/waterlevels/netdata/oneida-levels.pdf>). The Oswego River hydroelectric generators are optimized at a capacity of about 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).

In the table below, on 2/26/16 the Oswego River ran at 22,700 cfs, with about 1/3rd of that from Oneida Lake! The Oswego's peak flow is 37,500, Fish Creek's is 21,600 cfs, Chittenango's 5,200. Fish Creek contributes about 50% of Oneida Lake's inflow.

GAGE #	GAGE NAME	
04242500	EAST BRANCH FISH CREEK AT TABERG NY	2,900
04242640	FISH CREEK AT BECKS GROVE NY	Ice
04243500	ONEIDA CREEK AT ONEIDA NY	570
04243783	COWASELON CREEK AT CANASTOTA NY	219
04244000	CHITTENANGO CREEK NEAR CHITTENANGO NY	413
04245840	SCRIBA CREEK NEAR CONSTANTIA NY	Ice
04247000	ONEIDA RIVER NEAR EUCLID NY	6,120
04247055	OSWEGO RIVER NEAR PHOENIX NY	19,700
04249000	OSWEGO RIVER AT LOCK 7, OSWEGO NY	22,700

Please, support the OLA by signing up or donating today!

[Donate](#)

The Board of Directors extends its thoughts and gratitude to those who have donated to OLA in memory of deceased family and friends of Oneida Lake.

NYS LEGISLATIVE ACTION: The NYS Conservation Council tracks bills related to – among others – fishing, boating, access, snowmobiles, licensing, youth education, invasive species, and water resources. If you have an interest and time, you may want to review this list and read bills that are tracked http://www.nyscc.com/legislativeinformation/bills_of_interest.html.

From time to time the OLA will directly comment on some bills and regulations. For instance, in 2014 we supported a measure related to bills that would enable snowmobiles used exclusively for ice fishing to be registered differently (less expensively) from rules governing primarily trail-run machines.

NEW BOOK Oneida Lake: Long-term Dynamics of a Managed Ecosystem and Its Fishery by Lars G. Rudstam, Edward L. Mills, James R. Jackson, and Donald Stewart, Editors. Published by the American Fisheries Society. ISBN-13: 978-1-934874-43-1 Studies on the populations, fisheries, and limnology of Oneida Lake, NY started in

the late 1950s at the Cornell University Biological Field Station. Early research concentrated on Walleye, Yellow Perch, and their interactions but was soon expanded to include interactions with the lake ecosystem, an early example of the ecosystem approach. Research on Oneida Lake has continued for 60 years and the resulting data series that couples fish ecology and limnology is one of the best anywhere. In this book, collaborators worldwide have contributed insights into the functioning of the lake's ecology and fisheries, and by extension to the functioning of similar freshwater lakes elsewhere. The book is divided into three sections. The first set of chapters provides an historical and landscape context to the studies, the second set analyzes the long-term data, and the third set uses those data in modeling analyses. The book is dedicated to Dr. John Forney who began fish studies on Oneida Lake in the late 1950s.

SUMMERTIME READING: In some windy, rainy July day take a trip to your library and see if you can locate a copy of *Fisheries* magazine, published by the American Fisheries Society (AFS).

According to http://wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=886:north-american-conference-special-session-effects-of-climate-change-on-inland-fish-and-fisheries&catid=34:ONB%20Articles&Itemid=54 there may be some interesting reading on the effects of global climate change on our inland fish.

Here are a few other tidbits in the debate over changes related to the return or loss of glaciers <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160217140422.htm> and <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160217140420.htm> and <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160211192349.htm>. Regardless what you think is causing climate change, and its global effects on human populations (are we all refugees?), some science 'recreation' <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160209090358.htm>.



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