



**Oneida Lake Association**  
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Greetings!

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## WHAT'S UP?

### **I-81 HIGHWAY CLEANUP – SEPTEMBER 22 – FRIDAY MORNING**

Years ago the OLA 'adopted' a section of highway in the NYSDOT program to keep NYS roadways attractive and litter-free. Director George Reck organizes a Spring and Autumn crew of volunteers to pick up trash and debris on our adopted tract.

If you can join us on this date, contact George at [gkger3474@yahoo.com](mailto:gkger3474@yahoo.com). We will meet along the northbound off ramp to Bartel Road at 0845. The effort to clean up the roadway should be complete by 1100, including removal of trash left along the angler access beneath the I-81 bridge over the lake. Come meet some of your Directors. You need only bring a pair of gloves, for we provide safety vests and bags. Express your dedication to the Association and lake by volunteering a few hours in public service!

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## MUTE SWAN UPDATE

The state Department of Environmental Conservation issued its third mute swan management plan [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\\_pdf/muteswanmgmtpln17d.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/muteswanmgmtpln17d.pdf) .

The agency seeks to "control, not eliminate" swans from the state. It also "clarifies the permit requirements to possess, transport, transfer or release mute swans". Part of the plan, that recognizes the social and ecological differences between upstate and downstate, is to increase awareness of the potential negative impacts of mute swans and potential hazards of feeding wild waterfowl. OLA had commented previously on support of active management of this bird, and more public education and outreach to inform citizens of the threat to our environment by this non-native species. The new plan does this.

The DEC estimates, with three distinct populations on Long Island, the lower Hudson Valley

and along Lake Ontario. Most of the state's mute swan population, about 2,200 birds, had initially been marked by New York state biologists for elimination. The DEC has maintained all along that mute swans are invasive and non-native species that cause damage and problems to the state's wildlife and for people. However, many find people simply think the birds are pretty, and want them to exist across the state. Downstate pressure and out-of-state activists convinced Governor Cuomo to force the NYSDEC to step back twice before.

Mute swans can cause a variety of problems, including aggressive behavior towards people, destruction of submerged aquatic vegetation, displacement of native wildlife species, degradation of water quality, and potential hazards to aviation.

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## ALL WATER MATTERS!



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### NEW RECORD FOR SHEEPSHEAD (DRUM) CAUGHT HERE!

Oneida Lake angler Jason Bair, of Macedon in Wayne County, landed a 42.75-inch fish on June 16, resetting the NYSDEC record books for this species. A 36-pound sheepshead (freshwater drum) on a Rapala Jigging Rap.

### ARE YOU READING THIS? (Many are not!?!?)

ENews is issued to about 1400 members who have provided us an email address, and another "Friends" of the Association. It appears that several hundred of those to whom the newsletters are sent fail to open the email. If you know of a member who is not getting the mail that you do, please ask them to check their spam filters and make OLA a trusted source.

**Friends**, please consider joining us as a dues paying member. We know that many of you in government or institutional positions (where we send the email) have a personal interest in, or

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### Damn Water Chestnuts – they keep expanding! What can you do????

At the turn of this century – to some a long time ago, others 'just yesterday – the OLA first identified and began removing this invasive species between the Brewerton Bridges. We subsequently had help in this mission from CNY BASS and arms of Oswego and Onondaga County as the weed took root in Big Bay. Then In 2015 a member let us know about an infestation east of Lewis Point. With help from folks from the Finger Lakes PRISM, we pulled there in 2016 and 2017. Now we have another problem area, one that should not have occurred and allowed to be so massive.

Marion Manor (first two photos, taken 9/17/17) owned by the Oneida Nation would be completely infested if it weren't for boat traffic. Next door, westerly, the old Utica Boat marina also owned by the Oneida Nation also has significant population. Just to the west is a basin I believe is Oneida Lake Marina's (third photo).

Obviously, there's a large population in this area that would take a sizable effort to deal with in 2018. A former OLA Director notified us of this infestation. Efforts would have been more manageable had we had earlier notice, AND IF WE HAD MORE VOLUNTEERS TO PULL THE WEEDS!!!

BETTER YET, IF YOU LEARN TO IDENTIFY THE PLANT, PULL AND COMPOST IT WHEN YOU SPOT IT!

**If you park your boat in a marina, learn what water chestnut looks like, as well as other invasives like frogbit and hydrilla. If you see it, help your marina owner clear the harborage, entry, turning basins, and mooring areas of these weeds. Don't rely on someone else to be the environmental steward – you do it!! As a boater, you own this problem. You have the privilege of boating on NYS waters. Obey the new rules dealing with managing invasive plants and animals.**

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

use, Oneida Lake. **Become a member!**

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## Avoiding Conflicts Between Waterfowl Hunters and Waterfront Property Owners

For those members not well versed in the ethics and legality of waterfowling, here is a link <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/94213.html> to NYSDEC's website article regarding lawful and unlawful activities. Any person who interferes with the lawful taking of waterfowl could be ticketed pursuant to the Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-110.

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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.

**Donate**

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Enjoy the last few days of summer! It looks like another week or so of calm, hot weather, so we can expect to see another algae bloom. Walleyes should be hungry at night around the weed beds and shoals, bass are feeding on the gizzard shad hatch, and the perch are starting to bite on fathead minnows.

For those of you who have not yet pulled their docks and hoists, expect a lot of activity at the launch sites this and next weekend!

Be careful.

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[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)***