



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—P.O. Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220
It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

24 September 2015

Mr. Mark Augustus
Kasoag Lake Conservation Association
PO Box 346
Altmar, NY 13302-0346

Dear Mr. Augustus,

Late last month Oneida Lake Association (OLA) became aware of an invasive plant called fanwort that is currently established in Kasoag Lake, a headwater lake to Oneida Lake that empties into the West Branch of Fish Creek. Fanwort is a **prohibited and regulated plant** in New York State, and if it became established in Oneida Lake, it would have serious negative economic and recreational impacts to all lake users. ***The bottom line is that fanwort must be eradicated from Lake Kasoag so that infestations do not appear in the Fish Creek drainage, Oneida Lake, and the Oswego River system.***

The Oneida Lake Association (OLA) is a 2,150 member “watchdog” environmental organization for Oneida Lake, and an interested party on issues concerning the lake and its environs. Oneida Lake, is the largest lake surface within New York State, and the Nation’s largest freshwater lake entirely within one state. It unfortunately has been subject to numerous biological invasions over the years, the most recent being the round goby. Non-native invaders have dramatically altered not only the Oneida Lake’s water column, but also adversely changed lifestyles, and compromised the economics of businesses associated with angling, boating, tourism, swimming, and lakeshore ownership.

The OLA Board of Directors met Monday September 14 and voted unanimously in support of the Kasoag Lake Conservation Association’s herbicide treatment in Kasoag Lake to eradicate the infestation of fanwort. The Board emphasized the need for rapid response, cooperation, and involvement of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to eradicate fanwort. As fanwort can grow in rivers, the Board recognized the need for some agency-supported early detection surveillance of this plant in the Fish Creek drainage, ***and*** the elimination of any, if found upstream of Oneida Lake.

We applaud the Kasoag Lake Conservation Association for early recognition of the ramifications of a fanwort infestation. In your lake and ours, indeed all across our watersheds, unchecked fanwort would have significant, rapid consequences: fewer recreational uses and opportunities, reduced real estate values, diminished aesthetic values, and decreased water quality. We urge elected officials and NYSDEC to join in supporting the Kasoag Lake Conservation Association and other local stakeholders to the fullest and most immediately to protect our lakes and we greatly appreciate your efforts to eradicate fanwort.

Sincerely,

Scott Shupe
 President
 Oneida Lake Association

Xc: Assemblyman William Barclay
 Assemblyman William Magee
 Assemblyman Al Stirpe
 Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney
 Senator John DeFrancisco
 Senator Joseph Griffo
 Senator Patrica Ritchie
 Senator David Valesky
 Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
 Senator Charles Schumer
 Congressman Richard Hanna
 Congressman John Katko
 NYSDEC
 Ken Lynch
 Judy Drabicki
 Dave Lemon
 Frank Flack
 Nancy Mueller, NY Federation of Lakes
 Rob Williams, SLEO Prism
 Jim Lawler, Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club