



Oneida Lake Association  
PO Box 3536 Syracuse, NY 13220-3536  
info@oneidalakeassociation.org



Greetings!

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## WHAT'S UP?

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**Welcome to the Chinese New Year - of the Rat!** The Rat is the Chinese zodiac sign known for being inquisitive, shrewd, and resourceful. The Rat is also the first in the rotation of the 12 zodiac signs, meaning that a **Rat year** is a **year of renewal**.

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Ice fishing is a great way to get outdoors during the winter months. **February 15-16 is a Free Fishing Weekend**, where anyone can fish New York's waters without a fishing license. If you're an experienced angler, consider introducing a friend or family member to the sport.

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With the **plastic bag ban imminent March 1st**, NYSDEC reminds us that "When we improperly dispose them, plastic bags create pollution, and are often seen stuck in trees or floating in our waterways. They pose threats to fish and wildlife, clog machinery at recycling facilities, and litter the pristine outdoor places we love and enjoy spending time in with our friends and family."

Nevertheless, consider stashing a few bags now for use this summer as you boat Oneida and other waters.. Should you have (make the) occasion to pick up some nasty trash while ice fishing or subsequently from beaches, launch sites, or the lake surface, a few bags in your boat will be of use. Moreover, if you notice water chestnut as you work the shorelines for bass, pluck the weed's rosette before it goes to seed in late July, and toss it into a bag. Then toss the bag in your home trash.

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Remember that past issues of the OLA ENews are achieved on our website, along with many recent Bulletins. Hard copy of all Bulletins are on the shelves of the Syracuse Onondaga County Public Library. We want to duplicate these archives.

**We are looking for helpers** to go to the library and to scan the older issues for posting on our website [www.oneidalakeassociation.org](http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org) and helping us prepare for our 75th

OLA Directors enjoyed speaking to many of you at the Sportsman's Show as you renewed your membership. We will attend to many comments you raised.

As part of OLA's 75th celebration at the **April 28 Annual Meeting**, we have this fillet knife emblazoned with the OLA anniversary logo.



The Board authorized a price of \$20, or \$25 to also include an annual membership.



**SAVE THE DATE:** The OLA the Spring Highway Cleanup on April 24, 2020. Contact Director George Reck to help out.

**HELP!!! OLD MEMBERS: DOES ANYONE HAVE, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO MAY, ISSUES OF THE ONEIDA LAKE BULLETIN FROM 1945-1953?** The Board is trying to locate these to scan, and to provide a more complete record to those assembled at the Onondaga County Public Library.

An Agenda item for the upcoming Annual Meeting on April 28 is to recognize former Directors and Presidents of OLA.

Please email [President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org](mailto:President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org) if you know of a past officer, or if you have old Bulletins (from which we can compile a list of the former officers listed therein.)

## ADVOCACY

### CLEVELAND PIER

Days after reporting an update in ENews #44, we received a press release and learned that NYSDEC expects to start construction this winter. The state has secured \$930,000 to improve access and safety for anglers and boaters at the 1916 dock. Its last major renovations took place in the 1930s.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/77537.html>

[View conceptual rendering of new Cleveland Dock](#)

### COVE ROAD BOAT LAUNCH

We anticipate everything is on track for this launch to be completed this year.

NYSDEC should provide and update at the Annual Meeting.

### LEWIS POINT NEWS

It's still open and they have a new sign up with rules that must be followed if this area

will continue to be open for ice fishing access in the future.

All folks on the ice, regardless of where, should police their ranks and make sure all debris is taken home. **"Take nothing but pictures (and legal fish); leave nothing but tracks!"**

From the weekly NYSDEC Environmental News Bulletin  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html> we learned this:

The Town of Lenox Planning Board, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed **Lewis Point Campground Expansion** will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. The action involves the construction of 26 additional campground sites in the existing 39 site campground facility; together with utilities to new sites (water, sewer, electric) and appurtenant work on November 6, 2019. On January 8, 2020, the Applicant submitted an amended site plan which increased the number of proposed campsites from 26 to 33. The project is located at 9515 Lewis Point Road in the Town of Lennox, New York.

Contact: Charlene Barres, Town of Lenox, 205 South Peterboro Street, Canastota, NY 13032, Phone: (315) 697-7547, E-mail: tolchar@cnyemail.com.

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### ***Oneida Lake Cormorant Management***

NYSDEC Region 7 Fisheries Manager Dave Lemon reports that *last year his staff began conducting double-crested cormorant (DCCO) counts, hazing efforts, and diet collections on April 30th and finished for the season on October 30th. The peak spring DCCO count (310) occurred on May 6th but numbers on the lake remained below 200 the rest of May and early June. From June 12 through July 24 Department counts showed that less than 100 DCCO persisted on the lake. However, DCCO numbers increased dramatically starting in mid-August as the annual dispersal from other nesting areas began. For the season, high water and a regular DEC presence on Long Island resulted in limited nesting effort on Oneida Lake, and no juveniles successfully fledged.*

*From mid-August through early October DCCO counts were consistently at or above 1,000 per day despite DEC hazing and collection efforts occurring 2 or 3 times per week. Unfortunately several planned hazing events had to be canceled during that period due to hazardous boating conditions. Adult DCCO numbers remained much higher than normal in the month of October but staff were only able to get out on three occasions due to a combination of poor weather conditions and conflicts with other field projects. On October 30th staff were only able to conduct a partial tally of DCCO on the lake due to rough conditions but still counted 850. In total DEC staff were on the lake 32 days during the 2019 season with the greatest amount of time spent in August and September.*

*For the season, 206 cormorants were collected for diet analysis by Cornell researchers at Shackleton Point. While gobies and gizzard shad were the most common item in cormorant diets, by number, results showed that gamefish were an important component of cormorant diets throughout the year. While 2019 was the third and final year of the Department's special permit from the USFWS that allowed for DCCO collections for the diet study, DEC staff have prepared a request for a new three year permit (2020 – 2022).*

We thank NYSDEC and Cornell University for the sustained efforts to expand the science behind the long-duration predator-prey relationship on Oneida Lake, for this project has national importance. We additionally appreciate the protections afforded terns on Oneida Lake as related to managing DCCO. (see ENews#31 ).

OLA hopes that the Federal government, as it continues its mission to update the environmental statements and economics of its DCCO management plan, soon and finally incorporates sport/recreational fishing as one of the legal bases for assessing impacts by the protected migratory bird. As we know, sport fishing is big business, and

deserves consideration under the law and rules as do commercial fisheries and other bases for enabling states to receive permits to manage nuisance species. The OLA BOD will continue to meet and discuss the issue of concern with NYS and Federal elected officials, as well as advocating and demonstrating continued cooperation with DEC, USF&WS, and USDA.

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## MEMBER MEMORY

My family began going to Oneida for the summer season before I was born, when my mother was a teen. I swim each year, and spend quality time with my mother Chris in the old lakeside cabin which my grandfather remodeled and added on to which is now 100years old. (we finally finished painting it together last year - took us 3 years LOL!).

My grandfather Ken Goodrich fished regularly from a boat he would launch from our harbor each morning. My mom used to tell me when I was young that "Grandpa was going out each morning to help the sun come up." He was president of the Kinloch Point Lake Association for many years, and my grandmother Olga was the secretary.

Tradition was and is very important to our family...all these years later my mom Chris Gardner is the president of the Association. We are already looking forward to summer 2020!

## PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY!!!

The OLA would love to hear your thoughts about the Association and the lake. Send us your memories, your anecdotes, your photos, your ideas. What does Oneida Lake mean to you?

Note a new email address for you or family members to contribute to the OLA's efforts to collect historical anecdotes, names, and events in advance of the Association's 75 Anniversary in April 2020.

Write to [OLA75th@gmail.com](mailto:OLA75th@gmail.com)

As you greet your neighbors and friends in the coming months, consider a membership to the Oneida Lake Association!

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## Lakeshore Marina in Cicero open for 2020 season

Lakeshore Marina located at 6477 Lakeshore Road, Cicero, NY 13039 will be open for operation for the 2020 boating season. If you are interested in: \*docking your boat at the marina \*park-and-launch \*a season launching pass \*general information about the marina Please Contact Jack Harbold at [jackharbold@gmail.com](mailto:jackharbold@gmail.com) Please share information with others that may be interested.

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Amy Samuels, Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Onondaga Environmental Institute [asamuels@oei2.org](mailto:asamuels@oei2.org) writes that she has a job for any college students from the Bridgeport area who are looking for a part-time summer job:

*I would love to hire someone local to be a **watercraft steward** this summer. Do you know anyone? Generally, it has been college students who are interested, but some programs have hired retired folks and no surprise, have found them to be some of the best workers. We place stewards at Oneida Shores and South Shore every weekend through September and some days into October. I am open to the possibility of having a college student through August and then someone else for the Fall as long as everyone is available for the 2-day training in late May. At any rate, please spread word and the attached job description to anyone you know who might be interested.*

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In 2015-6 the OLA extended interest and support to curtail a **new invasive plant**

species that could infest Oneida Lake and downstream waters in the Canal, Mohawk River, and Oswego River. This month OLA asked how the Kasoag Lake Conservation Association and Nature Conservancy are dealing with the fanwort issue.

Mark Augustus responded: *As I am sure you are aware it is almost impossible to eliminate an invasive species. We have done herbicide treatments every year and have been successful in suppressing it each time. Unfortunately it comes back and has spread to all four of our connected lakes. We will do a treatment again this year. We also are always looking for new and improved ways to deal with our lakes health including our battle against invasive weeds. I'm sure you know the battle for funding and any assistance is also a continual battle.*

Perhaps one of the NYSDEC staff can provide an update at the Annual Members Meeting April 28. OLA hopes that we can entice DEC and the Governor to focus some budgeted program funding to eradication upstream before the invader relocates downstream!

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**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.**

**Directors serve 2-year terms, 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.**

**The BOD currently has three Director vacancies.**

**Write out your avocational resume and send it along with a brief note outlining your professional experience and personal interests to any OLA Director, or to [President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org](mailto:President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org)**

We are in particular need of someone who can assist in creating content for this monthly newsletter.

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## 9 Element Plan Status

OLA, with its concern related to the deleterious effects due to erosion and sedimentation entering the State's largest inland lake, issued a letter to reviewers of the developers of projects discussed in last months ENews.

Madison County SWCD received two grants through Round 25 of the New York State AG NPS Grant Program to do work on four farms in the Oneida Lake Watershed in Madison County. Projects to be completed included in these proposals include 3 barnyard runoff management systems, two silage leachate control systems, one manure storage system, one streambank restoration project, one soil erosion control project and the installation of approximately two acres of riparian buffer along critical stretches of stream corridors on these farms. Funding totals of \$976,880 for these projects include state grant funding and farmer matching funds.

**FOR TOWNS AND DEVELOPERS DOING NEW EARTHWORK:** New criteria for sediment and erosion control are part of a new general permit for stormwater discharges issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Another change eliminates coverage for "steep slope" areas with 25% or steeper grades, with individual permits now required. The *SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity - GP-0-20-001* was issued in January 2020 and was effective on January 29, 2020.

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**KUDOS** to the Town of Sullivan for renewing its reviews that could lead to completion of sewer districting on the south shore. Then only the northeastern margin of the lake would warrant action.

We hope that our Federal and State legislators can underwrite grants to defray local tax costs. Cleaning the lake is in the best interest of all of the state. A recent article indicates that an investment in clean waters has great merit on the basis of fishing alone <https://asafishing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/New-York.pdf>

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## FISHERIES

The lake refroze January 17. Anglers were soon out by the hundreds and have been reporting good catches of perch and walleye.

Alas, there have been many complaints about trash left on the ice by some reprobates. Please police your holes and discourage other anglers from leaving our lake a mess....pick up your debris, and embarrass them by picking up theirs!

**Ice Fishing – Feb 2020** – Be careful if you venture out, heavy snow has made pressure cracks difficult to see. The shoreline has gotten soft in some areas as well. There have been many reports of ATVs being swallowed up by these unseen hazardous. Let's hope the cold weather this week improves conditions.

Walleye action has been good, when the lake has been safe enough to get out! Banging a number 3 or 5 jigging rap tipped with minnow head off the bottom in the 25 – 35ft zone has been effective. Helpful Tip! Upgrading the size of the treble hook a size or two can improve hook-ups – VMC makes a sticky sharp thin wire treble that works well on jigging raps

**Releasing a caught fish isn't as simple as tossing it overboard!** Read in Popular Science: <https://apple.news/AAYwiUqfASamSX50Hk3x1ag>

The best news came from Cornell and DEC on February 3.....**There are a million walleye in the lake!** . [Best advance report in decades](#) Mark and recapture studies by the folks at Shackelton Point indicate that their models for predicting populations may have underestimated the walleyed pike numbers

**Plan on coming to the Annual Meeting to learn more!!!**

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State and federal agencies together have spent roughly \$607 million to futilely curtail the spread of Asian carp since 2004, according to data compiled by The Associated Press. Projects in the works are expected to push the price tag to about \$1.5 billion over the next decade.

A roundup of Asian carp on Kentucky Lake using 1,000-foot-long (305 meters) nets is opening a new front in a 15-year battle to halt their advance. <https://apple.news/Aavq2DRlqTrCOzVGAqhdg4A>

[EDITORS NOTE: These numbers, I suspect, far exceed the costs of earlier preventive measures had we effective legislation to keep invasive species beyond our borders. Dewatering a section and lightering barges and other watercraft in the canal of the Chicago River between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan might delay the arrival of the fish in the Great Lakes.]

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### Member's **FISHING TIPS.**

Feel free to offer up some of *your* short hints, tips, and tricks.

Here are classic tips from H.G. Tapply wrting in Field and Stream:  
<https://www.fieldandstream.com/32-vintage-fishing-tips/>

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## MEMBER QUESTIONS?

Remember that many of the frequently asked questions about the lake are posted with responses on the website.

**Q:** Is the annual meeting on a Tuesday this year? Not on the traditional Wednesday?

**A:** YES, April 28, 7 PM at Gillette Road Middle School on South Bay Road, Cicero. Doors open at 6, so some early and look at the displays.

Sent your questions and opinion to [President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org](mailto:President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org)

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**NAVIGATION HAZARDS:** OLA is again aware of a number of beached or submerged trees that have entered the lake, and anticipates more to enter this spring. So far our request to NYSDEC to again take the lead in an *ad hoc* task force to plan for and indeed remove these hazards has been less than fruitful.

The Army Corps of Engineers, NYS Canal Corporation, State Parks, and NYSDEC all have jurisdictional authorities in the matter. But none has an action plan. Many trees snag on town, county or state highway bridge piers, but not all are removed before they wash into the lake.

It should not take a boater or snowmobiler accident or fatality to prompt remedial action.

With multiple state, county, and private helicopters in the air, as well as drones, it is easy to spot and GPS hazards. Pilots, boaters, and ice fishermen can all report snags. <http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/navigation-hazards.htm>

State Parks will place marker bouys on identified hazards. Then what is needed are – in open water - barges bearing the equipment to lift and tow snags. Highway equipment is needed to remove to on-land docking and disposal sites for composting. NYSDEC and USACE permits should be enabled for 'disturbance of bed or banks'. Jurisdictional authorities should cut to the chase and minimize the bureaucratic abdication and overlap.

OLA hopes that one of these agencies takes the lead, supported by appropriate legislative funding, in organizing a plan for the inevitable removal.

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**ONEIDA LAKE SIGNS.** There are 20 signs around the lake bearing advertising support for the OLA's mission. At this time there is about a dozen firms of these advertisers who are no longer in business. If your company has interest in adopting one of these signs, and promoting both your business and OLA at a nominal expense, please contact an OLA Director or email [President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org](mailto:President@OneidaLakeAssociation.org)

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

**\$8 annually**

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

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**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.

Memorial remembrance\$ take the edge off some of our expenses.



If you or someone you know has a special avocation and interest in serving the Oneida Lake community, please contact us. We are in particular need of help creating and editing this ENews.

[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(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!*