



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.

Oneida Lake Association, Inc., P.O. Box 3536, Syracuse, NY 13220

Oneida Lake Association

Board of Director's Position Statement

Regarding: Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans* L.)

Water Chestnut is an invasive, exotic, aquatic plant, that if uncontrolled will spread rapidly having severe impact on Oneida Lake. The plants crowd and eliminate native vegetation and their sharp nutlets can injure waders. If allowed to grow unchecked every shallow area of the lake will be infested.

The first colony of water chestnuts in Oneida Lake was discovered on the south shore west of the route 81 bridge in the fall of 1999. The colony was discovered by William Schriever, Cornell Field Station at Shackelton Point confirmed the plants were Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans* L.).

The Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors believes funding should be available for:

1. Education
 - a. Riparian owners must be made aware of the consequences of uncontrolled spread of the plant
 - b. Riparian owners must be able to identify, pull and dispose of the plant properly.
 - c. All lake users must be made aware of the problem and their responsibility in checking the spread of the plant.
2. Removal
 - a. We believe a combination of hand pulling, mechanical harvesting, biological control and chemical herbicide application may be necessary for control of the plant.
3. Research
 - a. We believe research is necessary to find new ways to control the plant
 - b. We believe research is necessary to determine the best method of control.

If unchecked large areas of the lake will be unusable for fishing, boating, swimming and other water activities. This will have a negative impact on an already struggling economy.

Because of the plants ability to multiply at such a rapid rate, (one seed can produce 10 to 15 rosettes, each of which can produce 15 to 20 seeds for a total of 300 seeds per year) any delay in control measures is not in the best interest of Oneida Lake.

Revised 3/18/03

"It's Your Lake, Help To Preserve It"