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**UPSTATE FLOOD MITIGATION TASK FORCE  
ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDATIONS TO MITIGATE  
FLOODING THROUGHOUT THE  
OSWEGO RIVER BASIN,  
*including Oneida Lake and its Watershed***

Chair of the Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force and New York State Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton recently announced that the Task Force has concluded its year-long investigation into the impacts of flooding throughout the Mohawk and Oswego River Basins and has identified a series of recommendations that can be taken to mitigate future flood damages.

“With extreme weather impacting New Yorkers and our communities on a more frequent basis, and through the work of the Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force, we now have tangible action items that seek to improve our state’s resiliency,” Task Force Chair Stratton said. “Throughout this past year, the Task Force has collaborated with various subject matter experts, several state agencies, and members of the public **including the Oneida Lake Association** to research and recommend mitigation strategies that aim to protect the residents who live within these watersheds from future high-water events.”

The nine-member Task Force and its subcommittees reviewed the effects of flooding in the Mohawk and Oswego River Basins. The two watersheds combined encompass more than 8,500 square miles in all spanning from the Capital Region west to the Finger Lakes. The two drainage basins are individually distinct in their respective geology, topography, and hydrological dynamics with the Mohawk River Basin having a steep elevation and a lack of large water bodies to provide flood water storage, whereas the Oswego River Basin has little change in elevation and receives combined flows from seven of New York’s 11 Finger Lakes, **including Oneida Lake.**

The Task Force reviewed the impacts of flooding in these areas over the last five years to agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, land use, public health, insurance, tourism, recreation, and power generation. In addition, the Task Force assessed the New York State Canal system's operation, procedures and plans that may impact flood mitigation and management and identified adaptive measures, with costs, that could be executed to lessen flood damages.

The Task Force recommends implementing the following measures to enhance flood management and mitigation in the Mohawk and Oswego River Basins:

### **COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS**

A critical initial project is the development of detailed watershed models and improved communications across both the Mohawk River and Oswego River Basins. As noted throughout the Report, the two watersheds are complex systems that are managed by many different private and public entities for various purposes, including ecological, recreation, potable water supplies, navigation, and hydropower. A common understanding of how these complex systems react and operate during normal flow conditions as well as different and changing weather patterns to minimize flooding, while still supporting their core purposes, will be needed to develop programmatic approaches to inform operations and policy actions throughout the two basins.

#### **Numerical Watershed Models**

Develop and calibrate model(s) utilizing industry standard software for each watershed to allow scenario development and response estimation. The development of trustworthy models is a very important first step to managing the two watersheds and will permit more informed decision making across the various watershed managing entities to ensure intended benefits of the proposed recommendations and future adaptive measures are achieved.

#### **Increase Public Outreach, Education, and Communication**

Recommend developing an informal group of involved state agencies, **lake associations**, the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Manager's Association, and local governments to develop an educational strategy to inform and provide land use tools to both local government and those stakeholders residing near or within the floodplain to reduce flooding long term and increase awareness of their risks during a flood event.

The OLA is pleased that we have had the opportunity to participate in the development of this report and the work of the Task Force.

To review the complete report, [click here](#).

[https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/Executive\\_Summary\\_071723.pdf](https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/Executive_Summary_071723.pdf)

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## Fleet 204 Hosts a Learn to Sail Event

On July 11th, Hobie Cat Fleet 204 (headquartered on Oneida Lake), hosted a group from Onondaga Yacht Club for **Newbie Tuesday** at Therre's Marina on the south shore. This event is part of Fleet 204's efforts to work jointly with OYC and other local small boat sailing enthusiasts to get more people involved in sailing and racing Hobie catamarans. Newbie Tuesday runs June through August and starts at 6pm at Therre's Marina 6695 Lakeshore Road in Cicero.

Volunteers from Fleet 204 will take people who have a genuine interest in discovering if Hobie Catamarans are for them out on the water. The sailboats are fast and skipper and crew must move around the boat quickly to keep them upright, especially in big winds.

The Fleet also races on Thursdays in the same location also starting at 6pm. See [www.hobiefleet204.com](http://www.hobiefleet204.com) or Hobie Fleet 204 Social Group on Facebook or Contact Bob Longo 315-256-7061 or [rmlongo@aol.com](mailto:rmlongo@aol.com) for more information.





## Reel Fun at the Library

On those rainy days, or when you're dodging the hazy smoke, check out the public library in Brewerton. They have great books on fishing, sailing, boating, wildlife watching, and other lake activities for readers of all ages.

**And get this . . . you can also check out a fishing rod!**



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**OLA Teams up with the Oneida  
and Oswego County Soil &  
Water Conservation Districts  
to Pull Water Chestnuts!**

What's the saying? "Many hands make light work!" We found this to be true on June 30th when OLA members and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District staff pulled water chestnuts (*Trapa Natans L*) on the south shore starting at Lewis Point and ending at the Oneida Lake Marina.

Approximately 250 lbs were pulled on a very brisk and windy day! We hope to pull even more water chestnuts on Thursday, July 20th at Metzger's Pond in Constantia with the help of the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District staff.

Interested in joining in the fun? We will meet at Metzger's Pond at 8:30 am. All you need is a kayak, life jacket and the willingness to pull weeds for a few hours! Interested? Please contact Patricia Cerro-Reehil @ 315-727-5160.



# WE NEED YOU!!!

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!!  
ASSIST THE ONEIDA LAKE ASSOCIATION (OLA)  
WITH ONE OR MORE **WATER CHESTNUT** PULLS!



*It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!*



PHOTO CREDIT: SLELO PRISM <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/>

**(Must bring your own kayak/canoe & lifevest)**

- **June 30** – South Shore Oneida Lake Marina – **Arrive @ 8am**
- **July 6** – North Shore Shaw Road, West Monroe – **Arrive @ 8 am**
- **July 21** – Metzger's Pond, Constantia – **Arrive @ 8 am**

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**PATRICIA CERRO-REEHIL: [pcr@nywea.org](mailto:pcr@nywea.org)**

**CHECK US OUT!!! OLA STRONG!!!**



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## Shad Report

Many of you are still wondering about the late spring die-off of gizzard shad in our lake. OLA Vice-President John Harmon recently received an update from Tony Van de Valk, a researcher at Cornell University on Shackleton Point. Tony stated that "tests for viral and bacterial infections came back negative from the Vet school." Furthermore, the spring electrofishing survey survey from Shackleton Point indicated "plenty of adult shad survived." The bottom line is that the researchers have no concerns about the shad population.

## Cornell Field Station Update

Recently, the warm water fisheries group at Cornell Biological Field Station

completed their annual lake sturgeon surveys. These surveys occur in May and June, and consist of three days of sampling at 12 different sites located across Oneida Lake. A total of 26 lake sturgeon were caught in the surveys and ranged in length from two feet to over six feet long! All sturgeon captured were measured, weighed, tagged, and then released back into the lake. We use the tags to identify individual sturgeon which helps us keep a biological record of that fish. From these tags we were able to determine that about half of the sturgeon captured this year were recaptures and had already been tagged in the past, with one of the sturgeon being a fish that we tagged 21 years ago!

Most of the lake sturgeon captured in this year's surveys were hatchery stocked fish, however there were four individuals that were likely wild-hatched fish, as they did not have a mark from the hatchery. The presence of wild-hatched sturgeon is an indicator of successful natural reproduction occurring in the lake and is a promising sign for the restoration of a self-sustaining lake sturgeon population in Oneida Lake!

For more information on the lake sturgeon surveys in Oneida Lake please check out Krystal's blog (link below). She is our lake sturgeon extension project intern and keeps a weekly blog of her experiences here at CBFS.

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/kid89a/>

~by Cameron Davis, Technician at the Field Station

photo by Tom Brooking



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**The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.**

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

**\$8 annually**



Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



[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/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

[Report environmental violations.](#)  
**1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)**

*Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder*  
*Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!*

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