



Oneida Lake Association
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An Update from the Cornell Field Station

The OLA is thankful that we have the researchers at the Field Station to monitor and to report on conditions on our lake.

Here is their year-end report for 2023.

Members of the Cornell Biological Field Station staff caught 13 untagged young lake sturgeon in Oneida Lake during their routine surveys, the most wild sturgeon they've ever captured in one field season. Aging of fin rays from untagged sturgeon indicates that wild fish have been documented from every year-class since 2011. A very promising sign for natural sturgeon reproduction in the lake!

The first-ever walleye telemetry study on Oneida Lake kicked off this past fall. Sixty-four acoustic receivers have been spaced throughout the lake and select tributaries to track the movement of 200 adult walleyes surgically implanted with acoustic transmitters to learn more about where they spawn, seasonal movement patterns, and more. The first data from receivers will be downloaded next summer. This research will continue for three years.

Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery News

Bill Evans, Manager of the Oneida Fish Hatchery writes:

I hope the New Year finds you all well!

I am writing to let you know the Oneida Fish Cultural Station (aka Hatchery) has a full time seasonal position open for a Facilities Operations Assistant 1. The position starts April 1 and runs through August 31. The duration may be longer, or shorter, depending on department needs.

Starting pay is \$16.35 and some weekend work is required. This position assists with all aspects of fish rearing and building/grounds/equipment maintenance. Boating experience is preferable but not required. This is, at times, a strenuous job requiring working outdoors in inclement weather and physically lifting various items from nets to fish, bags of feed and turning boats over for storage.

Feel free to share this information, and anyone interested can send a resume to me at the following address:

william.evans@dec.ny.gov

Free Fishing Weekend!

The first set of Free Fishing Days of 2024 kicks off Presidents Weekend in New York on February 17-18. A fishing license isn't required over the course of these two days allowing you or someone you know an opportunity to give ice fishing a try. All you really need are some warm clothes, an auger/spud (to cut through the ice), ice scoop, jigging rod and some bait. Check out the links below to get started.

With the variable temperatures much of the state has experienced this winter we strongly recommend you check the ice thickness frequently as you venture out on the ice. For [ice safety tips](#), please visit our website.

Even though a fishing license isn't required during Free Fishing Days, all other [fishing regulations](#) are in effect.

Are you a beginner? Check out our "[How to](#)" Video Series for Beginning Ice Fishing on DEC's YouTube channel.



SAVE THE DATE!

Once again, the Board of Directors of the OLA will host their **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** this spring. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 24 at the Millard Hawk School in Central Square.

It will be a great night of information, displays, answering questions, meeting with friends, and, as always, plenty of raffles.

You won't want to miss it!

Oneida Lake Watershed Planning

The Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNY RPDB) recently launched an updated website for the Oneida Lake Watershed 9E Plan, currently under development.

This plan will build on past watershed planning efforts, including the 2004 Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and its Watershed and the 2003 State of the Lake and Water-shed Report. Both resources are available on the updated website.

A 9E Plan is a plan that describes a community's water quality concerns and provides a strategy to address those concerns. The Nine Element (9E) plan will be developed in partnership with the people who live, work, visit, and enjoy Oneida Lake and the creeks and streams around it, with guidance from state and local agencies. Funding for this initiative is being provided by the NYS Department of State, under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund, through a grant to Madison County and the CNY RPDB.

Visit <https://cnyrpdb.org/oneida9e/>

Public Input Welcomed on the Future of our Watershed

Madison County and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board are developing a watershed plan for the Oneida Lake Watershed and we want to hear from you! We are working with our partners at the Tug Hill Commission and the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Planning Program to hold focus group sessions on issues in the Oneida Lake Watershed.

We will be discussing a range of issues, including:

- Flooding
- Storm water control
- Stream bank erosion
- Improvements to farms that improve water quality
- Forestry practices
- Growth & economic development
- Municipal regulations and water quality
- Septic system impacts

Each two-hour session will start with an hour focused on the natural environment and agriculture, followed by an hour focused on the man-made environment, including homes, roads, and future development in the region. Feel free to attend only the first hour, only the second hour, or the entire meeting.

February 29 CNY Regional Planning Board 1:00-3:00pm
126 North Salina Street, Syracuse

OR

March 7 West Monroe Town Hall 1:00-3:00pm
46 County Route 11, West Monroe

Let your voice be heard!



Check out our safety maps!

The OLA Board is pleased to announce the upgrade of our two Oneida Lake Safety Maps. A large version of the maps appears on a pair of kiosks constructed and established at the Fish Hatchery in Constantia, as well as at Godfrey Point.

We thank Directors Lance Vella and George Reck for completing this important project.



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.

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

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



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

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!

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