



**Oneida Lake Association**  
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## COME JOIN US!

### **The EVENT OF THE SEASON IS HERE!**

Once again, the Directors of the OLA will host their **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** on April 29 at the Millard Hawk School in Central Square. Doors open at 6:00. Come visit our variety of exhibitors and informational tables. You can also renew your OLA membership at our front table. We'll get you signed up for the next year.



The meeting itself starts promptly at 7:00.  
Take a look at the topics we have lined up for you:

Welcome and Flag Salute

Brief Business Meeting

    Treasurer's Report

    Membership Report

    Elections

President's Report

Introduction of President Elect Dr. Amy Hetherington

Conservationist of the Year Presentation

OLA Scholarship Announcement

Remembrance of OLA Director Tony Buffa

### **Presentations:**

New York State Canal Corporation Director Ben Walsh

Oneida Lake Fish Cultural Station Update

Oneida Lake Fisheries Report from the Cornell Biological Field Station at Shackleton Point

Walleye Telemetry Study Update from Cornell

Town of Cicero Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Overview

Highlights of 2025-26 Law Enforcement Details

Final Q and A with Guest Speakers

## Door Prize Drawings

We will be giving away numerous door prizes, including lots of fishing gear. TowBoat US is giving away four \$50 gift certificates to Bass Pro! And our grand prize of a kayak from Runnings will be given away at the end of the meeting. Must be present to win.

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## Merch

OLA Merch is back! We have heard from several members who would like to show their support of Oneida Lake by rocking some OLA gear. We have a brand new batch of T-shirts, sweatshirts, and cool hats, all with a newly developed apparel design.

Visit our merchandise table at the Annual Meeting to get your fresh OLA look!

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## Hatchery Update

Once again, I had the great pleasure of riding out on one of the hatchery boats, offering help with transporting walleyes from the lakeside nets into the hatchery for their annual fertilization process. Long-time hatchery worker, Andy, handled the tiller while I helped transfer the walleyes from the nets into the large containers that bring the spawning walleyes into the hatchery.

Despite the fresh breeze and the cold chop, Andy carefully positioned the boat while we handled the transfer. I think I got as wet as the walleyes! Nevertheless, it is always one of my favorite springtime activities.



I asked Bill Evans, manager of the Hatchery in Constantia, for an update on this year's spawn. Bill replied, "It's been rather sporadic this year. We set our first nets on April 1. The first five days were a challenge because we had really strong winds that were breaking the anchors loose. Then we had that deluge of rain that made everything more difficult to handle."

He continued, "With that really high water some fish were able to get around the nets before they went into Scriba Creek to spawn. "

We all noticed that there seemed to be a larger cohort of smaller fish this year. Evans confirmed that by stating that, "We're seeing that in the hatchery, too."

The Hatchery was buzzing with activity each day of the spawn. Volunteer crews from Morrisville College attended, as they do each year. Students eagerly participated in the process of sorting fish, and assisting with the fertilization process. Other helping hands from state-wide hatcheries also volunteered, including crews from Adirondack, Chateaugay, and South Otselic.

**Director Evans will give a full report at our Annual Meeting on April 29. Be sure to attend.**

~John Harmon

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## **A Nice load of Eyes!**

**Ready for sorting.**



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## **Important Update on those Wetlands Regulations!**

Remember those DEC Wetlands Regulations that we have been concerned about?

A judge in Albany ruled that the regulations were not enacted properly. He "ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECLARED that regulations promulgated as 6 NYCRR part 664 are ANNULED in their entirety for non-compliance with SEQRA, and such regulations are null and void." 6 NYCRR Part 664 includes the wetlands regulations CLPOA+ challenged on April 18, 2025.

Of course, as they say, the Devil is in the Details. Let's see how DEC is going to handle this judgment.

~John Harmon, OLA Past President

## **Spring Cleanup Reminder**

OLA Director George Reck will head up our Annual Spring Clean Up on the stretch of roadway that the OLA has adopted. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 24. Plan to meet at the Bartel Road 81 North on-ramp at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather, and bring some gloves. George will supply large trash collection bags. We have a prize

for the most unusual item bagged! Come join us in our mission to keep the lake area clean!

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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**

**Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!**

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**Donate**

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

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



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[OLA Website](#)

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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